

Obituaries

We welcome original tributes of less than 300 words; we may edit them for clarity and length. Obituaries may be emailed to journal@doctorsofbc.ca. Include birth and death dates, full name and name deceased was best known by, key hospital and professional affiliations, relevant biographical data, and a high-resolution head-and-shoulders photo.



Dr Donald Wilson Lang
1931–2019

Dr Donald Wilson Lang died peacefully at the Comox Valley Hospital surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Louise; their four children, Susan, Andrea, Barbara (Blair MacLean), and Graham (Caroline Berka); 11 grandchildren; and twin great-granddaughters.

Don and Mary Lou were born and raised in Edmonton and married soon after they graduated from the University of Alberta in 1955 (Mary Lou with a BSc in public health nursing). They settled first in Barrhead, Alberta, where Don started his career in the era before universal health care. From 1959 to 1960 they lived in Bristol, England, and Don pursued further medical training. On their return to Canada, Don joined a family practice in Kimberley, BC.

Although the initial plan was to stay for a short time, Don and his family spent 18 happy years in the “Bavarian City of the Rockies” enjoying wonderful friends and a marvelous outdoor life. In 1971, Don arranged for a unique and memorable 1-year practice exchange with a physician in Bowral, Australia.

In 1978 the family moved to North Vancouver, where Don transitioned from being a small community GP to having an urban practice in Lynn Valley and working at Lions Gate Hospital. In 1995 Don and Mary Lou relocated to the Comox Valley where Don did some locums before fully retiring. Don used to say, “It’s not how long you live, it’s how well you live,” and he lived well!

—Lang Family
Comox Valley



Dr Pascualito Aquino Seminiano
1947–2019

Dr Pascualito Seminiano passed away from this life to eternal life on 25 September 2019 at Langley Memorial Hospital, surrounded by his family.

Dr Seminiano was best known by his family and friends as Lito. He was born on 23 May 1947 in Donsol Sorsogon, Philippines. He completed his medical degree from the Far Eastern University in the Philippines in 1972 and immigrated to Canada in 1979.

Lito completed his psychiatric residency at the University Hospital in Saskatoon. After obtaining his FRCPC, he practised in Moose Jaw and Regina, Saskatchewan. In 1991 Lito moved to Langley, BC, with his family and started working as a consultant psychiatrist at Langley Memorial Hospital and at Langley Mental Health Centre, and also opened his private practice. Lito was very involved with the development and growth of psychiatric services in Langley. He was a warm, jovial, kind person and was very dedicated to his profession. Lito was always willing to help others, and whenever his patients and colleagues were in need, he was always available and helpful. He retired in December 2016 when he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Lito was married to Emy for 40 years. He adored Emy, and she was a source of joy and comfort throughout his life. Lito was a loving father to his daughter, Andrea; son, Joshua; daughter-in-law, Marielle; and grandfather to Mason. He was also a caring brother to his siblings and warmhearted uncle to his many nieces and nephews. Spending time with family and friends was very important to Lito, and he brought a lot of fun and laughter into their lives.

Lito had a deep and committed faith and was very devoted to his church. He was a member of Bukas Loob sa Diyos (Catholic Covenant Community) and served in different ministries. He was also a member of the Legion of Mary (Our Lady of the Woods) at the St. Nicholas Parish in Langley. Traveling was one of Lito’s passions, and he often went on cruises and visited many countries around the world. He was dedicated to a regular fitness program and would go to the gym regularly, even after becoming ill.

Lito is survived by his wife, Emy; his children, Andrea, Joshua, and daughter-in-law Marielle; his grandson, Mason; his sisters, Nimfa Diguangco and Elena Andrews; his brother, Amado Jr. Seminiano; and their families. Lito’s presence and big booming laugh will also be missed by his colleagues and patients in Langley.

—N.G. Nair, MBBS, FRCPC
Langley

—Shilpa C. Shete, MBBS, FRCPC
Langley

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Mr James (Jim) Edward Gilmore
1930–2019

On 24 October 2019, the medical profession lost one of its most loyal and dedicated supporters. Mr James Edward Gilmore, retired director of communications and one of the few non-physician honorary members of the BC Medical Association (as Doctors of BC was formerly called) died at the age of 89 years in Victoria.

Jim was born on 19 April 1930 in Vancouver, where he lived most of his life. He is survived by his sister (Gerry), two children (Tracy and Dan), three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a number of adopted children from previous marriages. Jim’s career in the communications industry began as copy boy at the *Province* at age 15, and subsequently as a sportswriter and columnist at the *News Herald* and *Vancouver Sun*. He branched out into the public relations field as executive director

of the California Optometric Association and acquired an interest in politics. He returned to Canada and became the chief of staff for federal cabinet minister, the Hon. Ronald (Ron) Basford, and later become the first public relations manager for the Royal Bank in BC.

In the early 1970s the BCMA was suffering attacks from both within and without the organization, and a decision was made to hire a public relations expert to regain public support for organized medicine and offset the government’s public relations offensive. The BCMA hired Jim in 1973 as its first director of communications.

Jim had a transformative impact on organized medicine during his 20-year tenure at the BCMA. He convinced BCMA leaders that the profession would get nowhere if it dedicated its resources to reacting to crises whenever the government imposed its power against the profession. Although individual British Columbians (including politicians, bureaucrats, journalists, academics, and others) had immense trust and support for their own individual doctors, that was not generally the case for doctors as a group. Jim obtained BCMA budget support to establish a superb Department of Communications that developed ongoing campaigns demonstrating to the public that organized medicine was an important segment of society, particularly in the development of public policy for the betterment of British Columbians. Jim’s multi-faceted communication programs, both internally and externally facing, became the envy of other medical associations across Canada and outside Canada, winning many public relations awards. This strategy, along with the work of the



Jim in his favorite deerstalker hat.

Economics Department, was very effective in improving the financial situation for BC doctors, and the payment schedule rose to become the highest in Canada on an overall basis and remained there throughout most of Jim’s 20 years as director of communications.

In addition to the honorary membership bestowed upon him by the BCMA, Jim was also given the Pat Monk Memorial Award for his contributions to public relations by the Canadian Public Relations Society. Those interested in learning more about Jim’s storied career should read Dr Brad Fritz’s article in the January/February 2017 issue of the *BC Medical Journal* online at www.bcmj.org/special-feature/mr-jim-gilmore%E2%80%94one-good-guys.

Doctors of BC owes a great debt to Mr James Edward Gilmore.

—Norman D. Finlayson, MD
Former Executive Director, BCMA (1986–98)

—Dan Gilmore

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