

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 Marianne Russell 1963–2020



After a 16-year courageous battle with breast cancer, Marianne left the world on her own terms peacefully at the Henrico Doctors' Hospital on Wednesday, 26 August 2020, at 1:30 a.m. with her family by her side.

Born 3 August 1963 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, she was the daughter of the late Thomas and Josephine (McEachern) Russell. Surviving Marianne is her wife, Joy Russell; children, Hannah and Ryan; and her beloved dog, Griffin. Marianne was compassionate and devoted to her profession, touching many lives, and she left a deep impression on those for whom she cared.

Marianne began her university training as a biochemistry major in 1981 at the University of Saskatchewan. She attended medical school at the University of Saskatchewan Faculty of Medicine from 1983–88, obtaining her medical doctorate with distinction. After her rotating internship at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Marianne did locum and emergency room work in Saint John, Greater Toronto, Regina, and Vernon. In 1991–92, Marianne completed her first year of a pathology residency before deciding to focus on a career in family medicine. After long-term locum work in Swift Current and Enderby, Marianne settled into a full-service family practice in Westbank (now known as West Kelowna) with active privileges

at Kelowna General Hospital from 1994–2003.

In 2003 she relocated to practise in Coquitlam until 2014, and then moved her practice to East Burnaby and subsequently to New Westminister. She was first diagnosed with stage III breast cancer in 2004, but continued to work part-time through her initial treatment. She resumed full-time practice in 2005 and continued caring for patients, teaching residents and medical students, and maintaining associate privileges at Royal Columbian Hospital until taking a medical leave in 2016 with her first recurrence of breast cancer. Marianne was a clinical instructor from 2009 to 2014 in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of British Columbia. In 2010, Marianne decided she wanted to fulfill her goal of certification with the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and following the completion of her practice eligibility requirements, she successfully took the CCFP certification examination.

After relocating to Virginia in 2017 with her wife and kids, she obtained certification as a North American Menopause Society Certified Menopause Practitioner in May of that year. Marianne was able to resume part-time practice after obtaining licensure in Virginia in January 2018 until 2019, when she was unable to continue due to complications of her cancer and treatment.

As with many transplanted Saskatchewanians, Marianne remained a staunch member of Rider Nation, supporting her home team throughout her life. Wearing green in a sea of orange at games in Vancouver, her cheers were heard by all around.

Marianne was beloved and well respected by her patients, students, friends, family, and colleagues. She will be forever missed and always in our hearts. A celebration of Marianne's life will be held in British Columbia at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Marianne's family would ask

for donations to be made to CancerLINC or the Canadian Cancer Society.

—Cathy Clelland, MD
Maple Ridge

Dr Chava Eve Rotem 1928–2020



We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Dr Chava Eve Rotem, at age 92, on 15 August 2020. Eve was born in Berlin, Germany, on 15 January 1928, and at age 5 left Germany with her parents to begin a new life in Palestine (Israel). Eve would begin charting her own course in life, unaware of being a pioneer and role model for many women to follow.

Eve enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Geneva, Switzerland (1946), learning French in order to pass her first exams. In 1947, she returned to Switzerland after marrying in Palestine to continue her medical studies in Lausanne. In May 1948, when Palestine gained its independence to become the State of Israel, she and her husband, Zeev, were asked to volunteer with the Haganah (the Jewish Defence Organization) assisting refugee survivors of the Nazi camps who were being transported from southern France to Israel. Despite limited medical training, Eve was assigned as the ship's "doctor."

Back in Israel, Eve was assigned to the Medical Service, first practising minor surgery and

emergency medicine then joining with other students in opening the Faculty of Medicine in Jerusalem. She returned to Switzerland in 1949 to complete her medical studies, then later she and Zeev immigrated to England with their first daughter (born 1953), to continue their respective careers. Eve secured a position at the Leicester Chest and Isolation Unit as a house surgeon heading two wards for tuberculosis patients. It was in Leicester that a colleague persuaded Eve to specialize in cardiology. She participated in the first cardiac catheterizations at the hospital in 1957. A year later, Eve qualified as a consultant in the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh and London). In 1959, continuing as senior registrar, Eve gave birth to her second daughter. In 1960, she returned to Israel, where Zeev was working, to work herself at the Medical Missionary Hospital in Nazareth. However, the allure of pursuing their professions further took the family to the United States in 1964, where Eve accepted a research position in surgery at Stanford University, California. A year later, it was her husband's pursuit of professional growth that moved the family once again, this time to Canada. Zeev became a professor at UBC while Eve accepted a position at St. Paul's Hospital in cardiology. At St Paul's she participated in planning and developing the first intensive care unit; however, it was a position at Shaughnessy Hospital in cardiac catheterization, coupled with the completion of her FRCP in 1968, that marked her final move. Eve remained at Shaughnessy until its closure in 1992. In 1974 she had opened her own cardiology practice, joined later by her colleagues, Dr K. Booromand and Dr B. BarShlomo, and developed lifelong friendships. A well-respected clinical professor at UBC, publishing numerous journal articles throughout her career, Eve displayed a passion for her profession, and her willingness to share her professional journey made her an active lecturer and teacher, colleague, and friend, not soon forgotten.

Eve's interests and energy were not limited to medicine; her pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the world guided her additional pursuits. Archaeology was her second passion, and learning Spanish (her fifth language) enhanced her studies. If there was spare time it was spent reading or in the outdoors: cross-country

skiing, hiking (the Annapurna circuit at age 60), trekking in Patagonia, and exploring multiple regions of South America to name a few. But it was not only her energy, drive, and achievements that made her who she was, it was her integrity and honesty, passion, dedication, and work ethic that formed the hallmarks of her character as well as the cornerstones of her career. Her compassion, openness, and willingness to help anyone in need, her friendship, zest, and unwavering curiosity for life, and her love of animals and their love for her are the things everyone will remember.

Predeceased by her husband in 1973, Eve was a loving and caring single mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and mother-in-law. She is survived by her two daughters and son-in-law, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She was loved and respected by everyone who came into her life. A pioneer to the end, she will be missed immensely.

—Dina Collins
Vancouver

Dr John Jeremy Lewis Crosby 1936–2020



Dr John Crosby was born in Nuneaton, England, and attended medical school at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, graduating in 1961. Following house surgeon positions in London and Leicester, and a period of time as an anatomy lecturer, John came to Canada, where he spent some happy years as a full-service family physician on the Sunshine Coast in Gibsons. He did additional training in anesthesia at Vancouver General Hospital and achieved his Royal College Fellowship in Anesthesia in 1974.

John worked at St. Paul's Hospital until 1977, then moved to a position at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster. He

had a long and fruitful career there as a general anesthesiologist and, midway through his career, an interest in chronic pain led him to co-found the Diagnostic and Therapeutic Nerve Block Clinic at Royal Columbian and Eagle Ridge hospitals.

During his career he held the title of clinical associate professor of medicine in anesthesia at UBC, served the community as head of the Department of Anesthesia at Royal Columbian Hospital from 1984–86, sat on the executive of the BC Anesthesiologists' Society from 1982–87 (including as chair from 1984–86), was a member of council of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society from 1983–86, and served as a member of the Standards Committee from 1985–87. John retired from anesthesia practice in 1997 but continued treating patients with chronic pain until 2002. He was consistently described by his patients and colleagues as a gentleman, a dedicated physician, and a great mentor.

John was also very musically talented, writing and performing music often in the form of skits. He was a dedicated member of the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir for 28 years, serving on the music committee as well as arranging music that the choir still sings to this day. When not in song or "passing gas," John could be found in his garden getting incredible satisfaction from each flower and plant while raging against each weed and slug. He loved spending time with friends and family, whether it was on the tennis court or golf course, gathered around a piano, in raucous debate, or sharing a naughty joke, always with a twinkle in his bright blue eyes.

(Continued)

Recently deceased physicians

If a BC physician you knew well is recently deceased, please consider submitting an obituary. Include the deceased's dates of birth and death, full name and the name the deceased was best known by, key hospital and professional affiliations, relevant biographical data, and a high-resolution photo. Please limit your submission to a maximum of 500 words. Send the content and photo by e-mail to journal@doctorsofbc.ca.

OBITUARIES

He is survived by his wife, Marijke; his two daughters, Mariette White (Ed) and Michelle Crosby (Joel Bridle); and four grandchildren.

—R. L. Moore, MD, FRCPC

Vancouver

—Richard Merchant, MD, FRCPC

Burnaby

Dr Stanley Basil Briggs 1940–2020



Stan passed away peacefully at home with his best friend, confidant, colleague, and wife, Dr Jean Mercer, by his side.

Stan was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, where he completed his formal years of school. Following graduation, with his 6 ft 10 in frame, he was scouted by the University of Idaho with a scholarship to play basketball. His basketball career was shortened by injury.

He returned to the University of Saskatchewan, where he completed his MD in 1967. At the time, the University of Saskatchewan Medical School had the smallest enrollment in North America. The student-to-professor ratio was close to one to one. He had an excellent basic medical education, which stood him well throughout his career as a primary care physician.

Stan interned at the Royal Columbian Hospital, followed by a long career in White Rock. Most of those years were spent with Hilltop Medical Clinic where he was one of the original six physicians in that group. Stan practised full-service family practice, including hospital privileges. Besides delivering babies, he worked in the ER, assisted in the OR, and cared for his patients on the medical wards. Stan was an active member of the hospital staff committees, also participating in the hospital board before regionalization. With his tall stature came a

very gentle demeanor and a heart of gold. He was loved by his patients, staff, and colleagues.

Despite his basketball career ending early, Stan's enthusiasm for the sport never faltered. March Madness was etched in stone as a must in his life. His love for the Saskatchewan Roughriders was never in question, and he was part of the great green-and-white wave at BC Lions games. He never forgot his Saskatchewan roots.


Stan also loved the water; a swimming pool or ocean waves were never far from his recreational rests. And he loved travel; he enjoyed experiencing a significant portion of the world on his explorations.

Stan's love of life, appreciation of close friendships, and dedication to the medical community was a paramount quality. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, Ontario, Australia, and British Columbia.

In addition to his wife of 32 years, Dr Jean Mercer, he leaves to mourn his children, Shannon and Blair (Caroline), and grandchildren, Mikaela and Nathan. He is entitled to be proud of all of them.

In lieu of flowers, Stan would appreciate donations to the Peace Arch Hospital Foundation in his memory.

—Grant Gibbings, MD
White Rock




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