

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 Leanne Dahlgren 1972–2020



It is with both great honor and deep sadness that we remember the life of Dr Leanne Dahlgren, who passed away unexpectedly on 21 December 2020. She was a devoted mother and wife, compassionate and skilled physician, scholar, valued mentor, and a dear friend and treasured colleague at BC Women's Hospital.

Leanne was born in August 1972 and grew up in Sturgis, Saskatchewan, a typical agricultural prairie town of 600. She always stayed true to her humble, friendly, and honest prairie roots, and her small-town sense of community.

From an early age, Leanne wanted to be a doctor, which, coming from a small town, seemed a far goal to reach. But reach it she did, going from undergraduate sciences to medical school and an obstetrics and gynecology residency at the University of Saskatchewan. There she met the love of her life, Paul Scott, whom she would marry and have a family with.

In 2001, Leanne began her maternal fetal medicine fellowship at BC Women's Hospital and a Master of Health Sciences in Epidemiology at UBC, completing them in 2004. She won several awards for her research work, including the 2005 S. Stewart Murray prize for best final paper of graduates from MHSc, and a Strategic Training Initiative in Research in the Reproductive Health Sciences CIHR/Health

Canada scholarship, among many others. Her first CIHR grant as a principal investigator soon followed.

From this foundation she was inspired to a career in medicine that provided both the art and science of our profession at the highest levels. Her passion and dedication for delivering the art of medicine (caring, compassionate, empathic, and women-centric care) was matched only by her rigorous adherence to the science of evidence-based medicine, as seen by her work with the Canadian Pre-term Birth and Canadian Neonatal Networks, among others.

Equally important to Leanne was teaching and mentorship—she was known for her enthusiasm and excellence in teaching, particularly at the resident and fellowship levels. In recognition of her dedication and excellence, she was awarded a Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology award in 2011. She also taught across the entire spectrum of health care providers, and her enormous influence on those whom she taught is demonstrated by the large number of emails and cards we received from places like the Middle East, UK, Israel, and across Canada.

Helping others by modeling and mentoring was important to Leanne; she felt firsthand the challenges of balancing work in an academic tertiary care centre with her roles of wife, mother, friend, colleague, clinician, and scholar. However, it was clear to all that Leanne's family was her first priority. Her son, Ronan, was born in 2006 after a pregnancy where she experienced the full gamut of emotions from stress and anxiety to awe and wonderment. Her daughter, Elin, followed in 2011. Those experiences inspired and motivated Leanne to improve the pregnancy experience for all women, evidenced by her involvement on committees promoting a safe and natural birth.

The third member of her brood was a Bouvier des Flandres dog, Jasper. All three were a source of great delight for Leanne and Paul, generating endless tales of laughter and joy, which she shared with all. Wherever she was, whatever she was doing, Leanne's family was never far from her thoughts. We know that Leanne would be proud of them at this difficult time, and be comforted by the knowledge that she and Paul raised their children well with their love, support, and guiding hands.

Dr Leanne Dahlgren shall be truly missed. She was the best of evidence-based medicine combined with compassion, kindness, gentleness, and a warm smile.

—Nancy Kent, MD
Vancouver

—Sayrin Lalji, MD
West Vancouver

—Kenneth Lim, MD
Vancouver

Dr James Wilson Grahame 1939–2020



It is with much sadness that I report the peaceful passing of Dr James Wilson Grahame in Victoria, British Columbia, on 6 November 2020. Wilson was much loved by his family and colleagues. He was born on 13 February 1939 in Maghera, Northern Ireland, and is survived by his loving wife, Jane, and their blended family

of six children (Michael, Jennifer, Stephanie, Timothy, Penny, and Oliver) and six grandchildren (Raleigh, Storme, Skyler, Loughton, Caitlin, and Dylan).

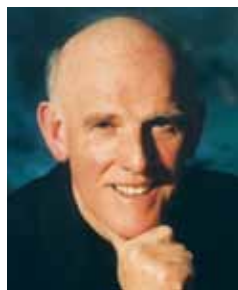
Wilson graduated from medicine at Queen's University in Belfast prior to immigrating to Winnipeg, in 1965, where he completed a residency in urology. He took a faculty position with the Department of Urology at the University of Manitoba. With his tremendous sense of humor and excellent teaching skills, he was a very popular instructor.

In 1976, Wilson relocated to Vancouver, practising at St. Vincent's, Mount Saint Joseph, Delta, and Richmond Hospitals. His skill and dedication as a clinician and his Irish humor were legendary. In 1993 Wilson developed a cardiac problem, forcing him to retire suddenly from his urology practice. Wilson and Jane relocated to Maple Bay on Vancouver Island and eventually to Oak Bay in Victoria.

Wilson embraced his passions with much enthusiasm, whether sailing, gardening, traveling, enjoying sports, or spending time with family and friends. With a twinkle in his eye and an abundance of Irish humor, he left an indelible impression on the innumerable lives he touched over the years. His legacy of joy and mischievous fun made the world a better place. Truly a class act.

—Russ Stogryn, MD
Langley

Dr George R. Gray
1932–2021



Hematology was in its infancy as a specialty in BC when George entered the field in 1962. As one of the first academic hematopathologists in Canada, George mentored close to 20 trainees, who either currently direct the hospital

and private labs in this province or have already retired. And there were many more foreign students, general pathologists, and clinical hematologists who benefited from his guidance. He championed the concepts of excellence in laboratory practice, with attention to administrative detail, the responsibility to teach, the value of research, and close collaboration with the technical staff. Following his early years in Montreal and Kingston, George graduated from Queen's Medical School in 1957 and came to BC to complete his pathology residency at Shaughnessy Hospital. He was a fellow student of Drs David Hardwick, Hugh Pontifex, Earl Shepherd, and Donald Rix, all of whom became distinguished leaders in academic pathology, and regional and private laboratories.

He joined Dr Wally Thomas at Vancouver General Hospital, determined to further develop the nascent field of hematopathology, and became the go-to guy in the province for difficult blood film and bone marrow interpretation. He later focussed his research interests describing rare local abnormal hemoglobins (i.e., Hbs Vancouver and Lulu Island).

Both he and Wally valued a close interaction between the lab diagnostic and the clinical applications of hematology, and early on welcomed Dr Shelly Naiman who expanded the diagnostic coagulation lab, and me, who came to lead the blood transfusion program and then Dr Ted Reeve, who helped develop the transplant immunology program. Among the others recruited by George for the VGH lab were Drs Jorge Denegri, Paul Keown, Cedric Carter, Randy Gascoyne, Bakul Dalal, and Monika Hudoba. Later, more of his protégés, such as Drs Deborah Griswold, Robert Coup-land, and David Pi, returned to make contributions to this lab. George seemed to find great pleasure as the reliable straightman for Shelley Naiman's jibes, and annually we all eagerly awaited his appearance in a seersucker suit as the harbinger of summer.

George headed the division from 1981 to 1998. Following retirement at the hospital he served as a medical consultant at Canadian Blood Services and was appointed as clinical professor emeritus at UBC. As a committee man, he helped establish the Royal College Examination Board in Hematopathology and

the BC Association of Lab Physicians.

Traveling became an even more important part of his life after retirement as he continued teaching with colleagues in China, India, and South America, and as a result further honed his taste for very spicy food. George was predeceased by his wife, Sylvia, and is survived by his children, Ian and Katherine; their partners; his brothers; and those of us fortunate enough to remember this very good friend and valuable colleague.

—Jerry Grove, MD
Vancouver

(With assistance from Ian and Katherine Gray)

Dr Arnold George Lowden
1927–2020



Arnold was a prairie boy at heart. Born in Regina and raised in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, his mother, Lorene, was a homemaker and his father, Stan, an accountant. He played hockey for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies during his undergraduate studies, and completed his medical degree at the University of Toronto in 1951. Interning at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, he met Charmaine Gruchy, a young nurse from West Vancouver. They married in 1952, with fellow intern Dr C.E. McDonnell and Dr Peter Marr at his side.

Arnold initially practised in Yorkton, where he coached the Junior B hockey team to the 1953 provincial championship. He and Charmaine later moved to Gull Lake, where Arnold worked alongside Dr John Matheson, who became a lifelong friend. In 1958, he obtained his diploma in public health in Toronto, returning to the Tisdale region as public health officer. Arnold resumed general practice in Moose Jaw in 1960. He always enjoyed the provincial medical curling bonspiels.

OBITUARIES

In 1966, Arnold joined the R.B. White Clinic in Penticton, BC. He became a school trustee, was team doctor and part owner of the Junior A Broncos, and president of the BC Junior Hockey League.

He became the medical health officer for the East Kootenays in 1975. He quickly initiated an alcohol and drug counseling service, which became the East Kootenay Addiction Services Society, and was named director emeritus for 30 years of outstanding service. Arnold served on many boards and committees, including the AIDS Network Kootenay Outreach and Support Society (ANKORS), and the EK Union Board of Health.

Arnold was deeply involved in the Cranbrook community. He served as chair of the school board (and on the provincial council), as Cranbrook Community Theatre board member (with several supporting theatrical roles!), and, alongside Charmaine, as an active member of First Baptist Church. He was a director with the Cranbrook Royals Hockey Club and a strong supporter of the Kootenay Ice. Arnold was an avid golfer and curler, and loved singing

with the Kootenay Harmony Chorus.

Arnold retired from public health in 1992, but assisted at surgeries for 5 more years. In retirement, he faithfully delivered school lunches for the Salvation Army, imparting many kind words along the way. He enjoyed time spent with friends and family, and remained active in the community. His decades of willing service and leadership improving the health of the community were recognized in 2008, when he was declared Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce.

The staff and residents of Kootenay Street Village became Arnold's new family when long-term care visits were not possible this year. He passed away peacefully with family members at his side—an honorable end to a life well lived. Arnold was predeceased by his parents and sister, Marjorie. He is survived by his wife, Charmaine, and their three children, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

—Keith G. Lowden, MD
Cranbrook

—Launny R. Lowden, MD, FRCP
Cranbrook

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.

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