

# Letters to the editor

**We welcome original letters of less than 300 words; we may edit them for clarity and length.** Letters may be emailed to [journal@doctorsofbc.ca](mailto:journal@doctorsofbc.ca), submitted online at [bcmj.org/submit-letter](http://bcmj.org/submit-letter), or sent through the post and must include your mailing address, telephone number, and email address. Please disclose any competing interests.

## Re: Benefits and limitations of ultrasound in diagnosis of rib fractures

Thanks for an excellent article, Dr Watson [*BCMJ* 2021;63:75-78,82]. In Big White, BC, we have about two suspected rib fractures per day. We ultrasound everyone at point of care, and get X-rays if positive (to rule out pneumo/hemo), high clinical suspicion, or prolonged symptoms (indirect compression tenderness or unable to accomplish three pushups by day three). Everyone with a confirmed fracture is advised to avoid skiing or snowboarding for 6 weeks, and I estimate the median compliance is 4 to 5 weeks. Late complications have been very low (none observed in about 2000 cases).

—Mike Figurski, MD  
Kelowna

# Obituaries

**We welcome original tributes of less than 500 words; we may edit them for clarity and length.** Obituaries may be emailed to [journal@doctorsofbc.ca](mailto: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 Muhammad “Max” Zahir 1936–2021



On 20 March 2021, Dr Max Zahir continued his journey into new realms. Symbolically, our beloved Max left us as we ushered in the first day of spring. The finality of his passing was met with the dawning of rebirth.

Max graduated from King Edward Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan, and as top graduate in his year, he was awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to study hematology at Oxford University. In 1965 he obtained a PhD with a thesis titled “The Nature of Wound Healing with Special Reference to Scab Formation.”

In 1967, soon after completing his PhD, Max joined the faculty at the University of Maryland as an assistant professor of medicine. However, the pressure associated with the academic publish-or-perish lifestyle prompted a move to New Brunswick, where he joined the medical staff at the Moncton Hospital. The biting cold winters were not always easy to navigate, and a move to British Columbia followed in 1974. A 28-year career with the Pathology Department at Royal Inland Hospital was the highlight of his decorated career.

During the latter part of his tenure at Royal Inland Hospital, Max held the position of chief of pathology. This experience led him to partake in a number of outside affiliations, including 5 years of service as president of the Society of Specialist Physicians and Surgeons of BC (1993–1998), as well as chair of the Laboratory and Nuclear Medicine Subcommittee for the BC Ministry of Health just prior to his retirement in 2002. With any professional endeavor, Max was lauded for his diplomacy, attentiveness, and unfailing leadership.

A momentous retirement project was the publication of his memoirs in the book titled *1947: A Memoir of Indian Independence*.

—Kate Zahir

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## 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](mailto:journal@doctorsofbc.ca).