

# 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 William ("Bill") Henry Dealtry Fairbank 1924–2022

Dealtry Fairbank was born in England on 6 May 1924. Bill Fairbank died on 25 February 2022 from a cerebral hemorrhage. In 1937, Bill's father asked him what he wanted for his 13th birthday. He didn't like the name Dealtry—it was difficult to pronounce and spell—so he asked to be known as Henry. His father didn't like that moniker, so they compromised, and he became known as Bill.

It is impossible to conceive how this modest, soft-spoken, under-the-radar individual could achieve what he did in a mere 97 years. Perhaps the most appropriate explanation is that he lived a life of service.

Bill was educated at Oxford University and St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London. He met his wife, Pamela, at Oxford in 1943 playing quartets. Following his medical training, and at the end of the war, he served as a medical officer with the Royal Air Force in occupied Germany and Austria.

Before immigrating to Canada in 1952, he completed postgraduate obstetric studies in Dublin. He was one of the first interns to train at Royal Columbian Hospital in 1953. At Bill's suggestion, Pamela immigrated to Canada

in 1954, and they were married in 1955. They raised four children and had six grandchildren. Pamela died in 2016 after 60 years of marriage.

From 1953 (for 4 decades), Bill provided exemplary cradle-to-grave medical care to his patients. During that time, he was an active staff member of St. Mary's, Royal Columbian, and Eagle Ridge Hospitals. He was involved with intern selection and training and served as chief of general practice at Royal Columbian Hospital and as president of the Westminster Medical Association. He also served on the Medical Advisory Committee of both Royal Columbian and St. Mary's Hospitals.

Despite Bill's tendency to keep his light under a bushel, he was recognized for his dedication to his patients, his community, and the medical profession and received numerous awards from Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver, the Canadian Red Cross Society, the Westminster Medical Association, Simon Fraser Health Region, and the Canadian Medical Association, including the C.J. Coady Memorial Medal and the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award.

Once his children were pursuing university and careers, he became a Big Brother and mentored five Little Brothers over 18 years, including outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, canoeing, and sailing.

For 25 years he was involved in Camp Artaban and volunteered 1 to 2 weeks each summer as a lifeguard, boating and swimming instructor, waterfront director, out-tripping director, and, on occasion, camp director.

Bill was an accomplished cellist and singer, participating in groups such as the New Westminster Civic Orchestra, Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, and Elgar Strings over the years, and he could always be called upon to form a trio, quartet, quintet, or larger group.

He sang in church choirs from about age 9, including St. Mary's Sapperton, Holy Trinity Cathedral, St. John's Shaughnessy, and St. John's Vancouver. He was also a member of the Bach Choir in England and the Handel Society of Music and Gloria Dei Chorale in the Vancouver area.

In 2005 he joined the Brock House Society seniors' centre, where he was involved in its orchestra, discussion groups, bridge, cycling, and hiking. He was still an active woodworker at age 97!

While still in medical practice, Bill participated in a number of short-term medical missions in Central and South America, including six in Honduras, two in the Dominican Republic, and one each in Ecuador, Belize, and Mexico.

After retiring in 1994, Bill volunteered for 10 years, 8 to 12 weeks at a time, at Hôpital Bon Samaritain, an American Baptist hospital in Limbé, Haiti. There he would triage daily several hundred patients, including emergencies, focusing on pediatrics. To improve communication for these journeys, he took Spanish courses and acquired a working fluency in Haitian Creole.

As a final note, Bill had a lifelong infatuation with William Shakespeare. He was one of the original members of the Shakespeare Society of Vancouver (founded 1993) and brought to it his passion for life and for the playwright. To quote the Bard, Bill, "may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

—Jack and Ruth Albrecht  
Burnaby

—Angela, Nick, Martin, and Tim Fairbank

A long-form version of this obituary is available at [www.bcmj.org](http://www.bcmj.org).



### Dr Lindsay McNiven Lawson 1946–2022

With deep sadness, the family of Dr Lindsay Lawson announces that she died on 9 June 2022 at her home in Victoria of myelofibrosis. She had been attended for several days beforehand by her three children, Andrew Lawson, Dr Mark Lawson, and Fiona Fiddick, as well as her husband, Dr David Lawson.

Lindsay was born in Greenock, Scotland, to George and Kathleen Hodge, who immigrated to Canada in 1947. She grew up in Victoria and graduated from Mount Douglas Secondary School (1964), earning her Bachelor of Science degree in honours zoology at the University of Victoria (1968) and her Master of Physiology degree (1970) and medical degree (1974) at McGill University, where she was awarded the Wood Gold Medal for the most outstanding clinical performance by a graduating medical student.

After a 3-year stint in New Jersey to accommodate her husband's academic journey, she completed her residency in internal medicine in 1979, followed by a 2-year postdoctoral research and clinical fellowship in respiratory medicine at St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver. She was appointed as a clinical instructor in 1982 and by 1997 rose to the rank of clinical professor in the Department of Medicine at UBC. Lindsay was an outstanding teacher and received numerous awards, including the Fay Dirks Award for Excellence in Teaching. At least two of her former students were involved in her care during her final weeks.

Lindsay's special areas of interest included the pulmonary complications of HIV and the management of asthma. She was one of the original members of the AIDS care team at St.

Paul's Hospital and saw virtually all the patients with HIV-related pulmonary complications through the 1980s and '90s, and in so doing provided clinical support for much of the early research of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. She was a coauthor of several of its early scientific publications.

In addition to her busy clinical practice, Lindsay served as medical director of the Medical Short Stay Unit at St. Paul's Hospital (1994–2010). She was actively involved in several committees of the then-BCMA, served on the Editorial Board of the *BC Medical Journal* (1994–2011), and was an examiner for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Following her retirement from hospital practice after 33 years at St. Paul's Hospital, Lindsay continued her traveling clinics in Lillooet and Powell River for her final 3 years of clinical practice.

When asked to identify her greatest achievement on the *BCMJ's* Proust Questionnaire, she said it was "raising three children to be family-oriented, loving, accomplished adults with the help of my husband" [2012;54:438]. This was especially important to her because of the general disapproval expressed at that time of women who chose to return to work following the birth of their children.

Lindsay was an exceptional person. As busy as she was at work, Lindsay always found time to support and encourage her children. She was also highly intelligent, possessed formidable analytical skills and an amazing memory, and had a strong work ethic. During her medical residency she would leave for work early Friday morning and return Monday evening, overnighting at the hospital's resident quarters. Entering medicine at a time when it was predominantly a male profession, Lindsay was an important role model for many young women.

When it came to treating her patients who had AIDS, Lindsay was compassionate, courageous, and nonjudgmental. Before the means of transmission was understood, she spoke to David about her having to accept risks of the unknown in order to treat her patients. Lindsay treated patients who were turned away from other hospitals, knowing that their likely diagnosis was a death sentence within 2 years, stayed in contact with them, and consoled those

### Recently deceased physicians April–July 2022

The following Doctors of BC members died between April and July 2022. Thank you to their families for sharing this information with the Membership Department. If you knew any of the deceased who have not yet had an obituary published in the *BCMJ*, please consider submitting a piece to [journal@doctorsofbc.ca](mailto:journal@doctorsofbc.ca).

#### Dr Philip William Asplin

1 June 1945–2 May 2022

Obituary: [www.campbellrivermirror.com/obituaries/dr-philip-william-asplin](http://www.campbellrivermirror.com/obituaries/dr-philip-william-asplin)

#### Dr Edward John Booth

21 March 1942–21 July 2022

#### Dr Frederick Andrew Davis

3 August 1938–30 April 2022

#### Dr George William Keith Donaldson

20 March 1937–19 April 2022

Obituary: <https://necrocanada.com/obituaries-2022/dr-george-william-keith-donaldson-march-20-1937-april-19-2022>

#### Dr Carol Linda Jenken

7 July 1954–8 April 2022

Obituary: [www.mccallgardens.com/obituaries/carol-linda-jenken](http://www.mccallgardens.com/obituaries/carol-linda-jenken)

#### Dr Ruth Joy Simkin

18 March 1944–13 May 2022

#### Dr Ralph Shulman

21 January 1929–5 May 2022

#### Dr Jatinder Singh Sandhu

21 September 1964–1 May 2022

#### Dr Andrew Nicholas van der Westhuizen

15 February 1986–1 July 2022

#### Dr Joshua Raj Kotaro Yoneda

29 October 1994–16 May 2022

Obituary: [www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/kamloopsthisweek/name/joshua-yoneda-obituary?pid=202039506](http://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/kamloopsthisweek/name/joshua-yoneda-obituary?pid=202039506)

doctors  
of bc

whose families had rejected them. The grief she experienced with every patient death was apparent even 35 years later when she related her experiences from that time.

Lindsay coped with her disease with fortitude and grace, not telling most friends and family about her condition until shortly before she died so they wouldn't worry about her. She never complained or shed a tear and expressed gratitude for every caring gesture made to keep her comfortable. Lindsay was a wonderful woman, wife, mother, and physician who will be missed terribly.

Lindsay's family expresses their deep appreciation to Dr Chelsey Lane, the BC Cancer Agency staff, and the palliative care team for their compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, donations in Lindsay's name can be made to Médecins Sans Frontières, whose brave work Lindsay always admired.

—David Lawson  
Victoria

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# Latest curated reading list: Planetary health

**A**wareness and assessment of social determinants of health are important to ensure high-quality patient care, but it can be daunting to find information sources to ground one's practice in evidence. The College Library has curated several reading lists to this end, with the newest list recognizing the importance of environmental and climate change on patient health and medical practice, collating resources focusing on planetary health.

In British Columbia, climate crises such as 2021's summer heat dome and catastrophic flooding in the fall have highlighted how rapid and unpredictable environmental change can directly affect patient health and well-being. The planetary health list includes current

articles, guidelines, online and physical books from the College Library's collection, and high-quality websites encompassing topics such as heat-response planning, mental distress as a result of climate change, and changes in patterns of vector-borne disease.

In addition to resources supporting patient care, the planetary health reading list has information about sustainability in medical practice. Links to articles that discuss suggestions for environmental sustainability applicable to the family practice office, as well as sustainable surgical practices, may be found here.

To view this and other reading lists, such as race and health equity and trauma-informed care, visit [www.cpsbc.ca/registrants/library/reading-lists](http://www.cpsbc.ca/registrants/library/reading-lists). College registrants can also request more specific literature searches on planetary health-related topics, or on any other desired subject, via email to [medlib@cpsbc.ca](mailto:medlib@cpsbc.ca) or the literature search web form at [www.cpsbc.ca/registrants/library/make-request](http://www.cpsbc.ca/registrants/library/make-request). ■

—Paula Osachoff  
Librarian

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*This article is the opinion of the Library of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC and has not been peer reviewed by the BCMJ Editorial Board.*

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