

Obituaries

We welcome original tributes of less than 700 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 Mary-Wynne Ashford (née Moar) 1939–2022

Dr Mary-Wynne Ashford was born on 17 March 1939 in Indian Head, Saskatchewan. She passed away peacefully on 19 November 2022 in Victoria, British Columbia, with family at her side. A retired family and palliative care physician in Victoria and retired associate professor at the University of Victoria, Mary-Wynne was adamant that a physician's role went far beyond caring for individual patients. She believed that advocating for peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons was part of a doctor's duty of care.

For 37 years Mary-Wynne wrote and spoke internationally about peace and disarmament. She was co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) from 1998 to 2002 (which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985) and president of Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War from 1988 to 1990. She led two IPPNW

delegations to North Korea, in 1999 and 2000. Her award-winning book, *Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror and War*, has been translated into Japanese and Korean. She won many awards, including the Queen's medal on two occasions, the Gandhi Peace Prize in 1997, the Dr Cam Coady Medal of Excellence from Doctors of BC in 2019, and, with Dr Jonathan Down, the 2019 Distinguished Achievement Award from Canadians for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. She recognized the vital role of women as peace activists and in 2018 joined 1200 women from around the world to walk across the Reunification Bridge to a peace park in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. In 2021 she developed and taught an online course, Global Solutions for Peace, Equality, and Sustainability, sponsored by Next Gen U and IPPNW Canada. She nurtured an extensive network of international connections, and her ability to form strong relationships was a hallmark feature of her character.

The third of four children born to Jack Moar (a bush pilot, inventor, and entrepreneur) and Kitty Moar (a writer, teacher, artist, and community organizer), Mary-Wynne inherited a sense of boundless energy and optimism, and the belief that she had no limits. She was clever and confident, and she connected with people in a deep and meaningful way. At the University of Alberta, she earned a BSc in home economics and a BEd. In 1981 she graduated from the University of Calgary as a doctor of medicine, and in 1997 she earned her PhD in education from Simon Fraser University.

She married the late Dr David Ashford and was the mother of three (Karen, Graham, and Patrick). As a volunteer with the

Calgary Zoo, she was foster mother to two baby orangutans and a polar bear cub, capturing the activity of those years in a regular column for the *Calgary Herald* titled "Out of My Tree." Before enrolling in medical school, she studied music theory, singing, French, creative writing, and Shakespearean theatre. After completing her medical training and moving to Victoria, she married Dr Russell Davidson, adding four stepchildren (Katyann, Victoria, Gillian, and Emma) to the warm circle of family. She was grandmother to 10 grandchildren.

A passion for the arts infused her life. She performed in many drama and theatre productions, and her involvement in the Gettin' Higher Choir and the Community

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When roles are reversed: Perspectives from the physician as patient

I believe we can enhance patient care through empathy and compassion, and that we must remember that our profession does not make us immune to the human experience that comes with being sick.

Read the special feature: bcmj.org/special-feature/when-roles-are-reversed-perspectives-physician-patient

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OBITUARIES

Choir Leadership Training program continued until her death. She was renowned for her sewing skills, especially her handcrafted puppets. Recently she created puppets representing famous female social activists for the University of Victoria Faculty of Education and several special therapy puppets used to assist Syrian refugee children in telling their stories and settling in more easily in Canada.

For decades, Mary-Wynne collaborated with members of the Bahá'í Faith on issues of global peace, prosperity, and the advancement of women. In 2008 she formally joined the Bahá'í Faith and was an active member of the community, serving on institutions and promoting the teachings, particularly those that elaborated on aspects of world peace and global governance.

Mary-Wynne never lost hope that the world would one day be nuclear weapons-free. She was one of the most inspirational and influential leaders of our time.

—Jonathan Down, MD, FRCPC
Victoria



Dr Ruth Oliver
1946–2022

Ruth passed away peacefully in her sleep at age 76. Her love of family and faith remained till the end. Born in South Africa, she was predeceased by her father, James, and mother, Mary. She is survived by her daughters, Tamara (Damian) and Adrienne (Graziano); grandchildren, Amayah, Xavier, Lucy, and Irie; and seven siblings. Ruth graduated from medical school in Durban, South Africa, in 1972 and then immigrated to Canada, where she completed her residency in psychiatry at Queen's University in Kingston in the late 1970s. Most of her professional career was spent in outpatient practice in the Lower Mainland. She retired in 2009. She was a brilliant, skilled, compassionate, and dedicated physician, loved by her patients and colleagues. She often used her many creative talents to help the less fortunate, including baking for her local soup kitchen, making blankets for homeless shelters, and providing flower arrangements for her church using flowers from her own beautiful garden. She will be deeply missed, but we're grateful for her towering example. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Covenant House (www.covenanthousebc.org), which supports young people facing homelessness, a cause near and dear to Ruth's heart.

—Adrienne Melck, MD
Vancouver



Dr C. Paul Sabiston
1954–2022

Dr Paul Sabiston died on 8 November 2022, with the help of medical assistance in dying, after 7 years of living with the effects of bladder cancer and its treatment. He was at home with his family, pragmatic to the end.

Paul graduated from the University of Ottawa medical school in 1979 and started his residency in orthopaedics at Vancouver General Hospital that year, where we were colleagues. He was not only a gifted student, but also an amazing athlete, having swum for UBC (national team trials), and a bicycle racer, completing numerous Gastown Grands Prix.

He told me he couldn't run but, despite this modesty, was first out of the water in both the Vancouver and Victoria triathlons, finishing in the top four in each race.

Following residency Paul spent a year in Calgary doing research and knee surgery, with a faculty appointment waiting for him at UBC. Luckily I was able to convince him to come to Lions Gate Hospital, where he formed the nucleus of a strong orthopaedics team, which continues to be a centre of excellence well after his retirement in 2014.

Paul worked hard and was loved by his patients, colleagues, and nurses alike. He kept a good work-life balance, spending much of his spare time foil-kiting in the summer and snowboarding and skiing in the winter. He was very skilled at all

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The changing #epidemiology of #syphilis in BC. Rates of infectious syphilis in British Columbia have been steadily increasing over the past decade.

Read the article: bcmj.org/bccdc/changing-epidemiology-syphilis-bc

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these activities. On one occasion, he and an equally talented friend paddled a twin surf kayak around all the Bowron Lakes between sunrise and sunset. He didn't recommend this activity to me, as his subsequent wrist tendonitis slowed down his surgery for the next week!

We have lost a talented knee surgeon and a good friend to all.

—Denis Morris, MD, FRCSC
West Vancouver

NEW ARTICLE TYPE:
BC Stories



Have you heard the story about the cardiologist who came across a cougar while fly-fishing in Bella Coola? Or the pediatrician who drove from White Rock to Whitehorse to meet the brother she had been separated from at birth? No? Well, neither have we—but we want to. We're introducing a new type of article and we need your stories.

BC Stories is where you can share a personal story unrelated to practising medicine. It can be funny, topical, sad, perplexing, or just plain interesting; it can relate to the arts, humanities, BC travel, sports, or anything else you're passionate about. Stories should be written in a casual, informal tone, take place in British Columbia, and be 1000–2000 words in length. Include high-resolution photos or other images when possible.

[bcmj.org/
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Resources for emerging and persistent infectious diseases

Infectious diseases in the British Columbian population during 2022 have posed major challenges to the health system. Keeping abreast of emerging and persistent infectious diseases is crucial, and the following may be helpful information tools.

DynaMed, available through the College Library, classifies point-of-care information by specialty. Browse the infectious diseases section (or search by keyword) for a wide scope of subtopics, such as hemorrhagic fevers and fungal, prion, and viral infections.

Similarly, *BMJ* Best Practice displays evidence-based guidance in over 550 infectious diseases modules in a list for browsing; it is also keyword searchable. Comorbidities can be flagged to focus content on that most relevant to your patient's concurrent health conditions.

Both Best Practice and DynaMed are available online via www.cpsbc.ca/registrants/library/point-care-tools or as apps at www.cpsbc.ca/registrants/library/mobile-apps.

Current books on infectious diseases are an important part of the College Library's collection. Library users can search the catalogue (<https://szasz.catalogue.libraries.coop>) and view such communicable diseases e-books as:

- *Review of Medical Microbiology and Immunology: A Guide to Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 2022
- *Cardiovascular Complications of COVID-19: Risk, Pathogenesis and Outcomes*, 2022
- *Atlas of Dermatology, Dermatopathology and Venereology: Cutaneous Infectious and*

Neoplastic Conditions and Procedural Dermatology, 2021


- *Highly Infectious Diseases in Critical Care: A Comprehensive Clinical Guide*, 2020
- *Hunter's Tropical Medicine and Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 2020

Valuable sources of infectious diseases clinical guidance and epidemiology are available from the BC Centre for Disease Control (www.bccdc.ca) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html). Also, the CMA Joule CPG Infobase (<https://joule.cma.ca/cpg>), a directory of Canadian clinical guidelines, lists over 550 guidelines on infectious diseases published in the last 5 years. ■


—Karen MacDonell
Director, Library Services

Attn: BC Doctors

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