

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 Tracy Pickett
1968–2023

On the 1-year anniversary of Dr Tracy Pickett's passing, we would like to take a moment to remember our dear colleague, mentor, and friend. Tracy passed away 27 September 2023.

A deeply dedicated physician, Tracy began her career in medicine in 1995 and became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 2000. In the course of her work as an emergency physician at Vancouver General, St. Paul's, and BC Children's Hospitals, she became interested in the practice of clinical forensic medicine.

Through her pursuit of this passion, she earned a master of forensic medicine and the prestigious Sir John Monash Medal for excellence in graduate and postgraduate coursework study. Following this, she was granted a prestigious fellowship with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia in 2015 that led to her becoming the only physician in North America to hold both an academic degree and a fellowship in clinical

forensic medicine. She was a trailblazer in every sense of the word.

As a clinical professor, Tracy was a regarded leader, mentor, and educator in the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Medicine for over 20 years, lecturing around the world on gender-based violence, trauma, and forensic medicine to diverse groups ranging from elementary school children to the judiciary and academics, and authoring journal articles, webinars, and online modules.

A strong advocate for education and reform, Tracy used her expertise in both medicine and forensics to support education and outreach in community service agencies and educational institutions across the province and the country. Most notably, she was included in the list of experts at the International Criminal Court and gave expert testimony to courts in Canada and internationally.

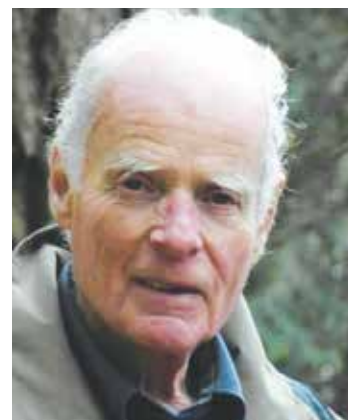
Tracy's many contributions, coupled with her empathy and compassion, impacted countless Canadians and effected systemic change locally, nationally, and internationally. Her legacy as a pillar in the forensic community, a leader in social justice, and a passionate advocate for patients will endure.

We also knew Tracy as a devoted mother and partner, athlete, and lover of animals. Her unique humor, humble presence, and insatiable curiosity had a remarkable ability to brighten any room.

We will remember Tracy not only for her professional achievements, but also for the kindness and warmth she shared with everyone she met. And we will honor her and her memory by embodying the same compassion and dedication in our work, now and in the future.

Thank you, Tracy, for everything you've given us. You continue to be a cherished part of our hearts and our work.

—BC Women's Hospital Sexual Assault Service team



Dr Thomas Paul Broome
1932–2023

Dr Thomas Paul Broome and I both sang in the Victoria Choral Society for years. He was a bass, while I'm a tenor. More than once, he shared, "The tenors sound good." For a while, he hosted sectional rehearsals for the basses in his living room.

Paul worked as an internist in Victoria. I came across one of his consults for a mutual patient, who had respiratory symptoms. The consult mentioned that Paul had instructed the patient in diaphragmatic breathing, something choir directors have choristers do at the beginning of every rehearsal.

The following is an edited excerpt from an obituary that appeared in the *Times Colonist*, 16–18 September 2023.

On 3 September 2023, Dr Thomas Paul Broome passed away at age 91. He was predeceased by his wife, Ann Theresa Broome, leaving behind his son, David Broome. In recent years, Paul spent much of his time with his friend Patty Grant. She provided friendship, support, and a new zest in his life.

Paul spent the majority of his energy helping others. He looked back fondly at his time at Queen's University's School of Medicine, which he graduated from in 1956. For 41 years, he had an internal medicine practice in Victoria, retiring in 2011.

After retiring, he enjoyed every day with a community of friends and activities, including choirs, weekly Spanish tortilla-perfecting sessions, the Goodtimers coffee group, walks, visits to Hermann's Jazz Club, and time spent at his Pender Island cottage.

—Robert Shepherd, MD
Victoria



Dr Asoke Kumar Dutt
1928–2024

With heavy hearts, we announce that Dr Asoke Dutt, 95, passed away peacefully earlier this year. He is beloved of his wife, Hilda; children, Sumitra (Brian) and Indira (Stephen); and grandchildren, Manjulika, Khirode, Tushar, Rakesh, and Rajiv.

Born and raised in Kolkata, Asoke trained at Calcutta Medical College before completing his surgical fellowship in the United Kingdom. Asoke and Hilda met at work in Dartford, England. They moved to Ottawa during Expo 67 and were swept

into the excitement and aspirations of their adopted country. Unwilling to endure another Ottawa winter, however, Asoke and Hilda drove across Canada—destination Vancouver—in 1968.

Asoke wholeheartedly set his roots in Maple Ridge, becoming an integral part of the medical community. He was the first resident surgeon in Maple Ridge, a vital service for a growing community often cut off from Vancouver by the Pitt River swing bridge. One of his early cases involved being called to reattach a young boy's arm, which had been pulled off by a cougar on the Pitt River dikes before the boy's father managed to frighten the cougar away. The boy was rushed to BC Children's Hospital for further care, and his arm was saved. Asoke made the OR his teaching arena for all the staff there. He also operated at Mission Memorial Hospital for years, before the Mission Bridge brought Mission much nearer to the larger centre of Abbotsford. There, early on, he was able to take a severely injured man with a partially amputated leg into the OR within 10 minutes of the ambulance arriving.

An early adopter, Asoke purchased Maple Ridge Hospital's first gastroscope out of pocket, while training in Japan. It was 1973, and Maple Ridge residents had access to gastroscopic investigation before Vancouverites did. Asoke started a colonoscopy clinic before Maple Ridge had gastroenterologists. Before there were local respirologists, he used a Bird universal medical respirator to save two patients with smoke inhalation. Asoke also spearheaded the acquisition of a mammogram machine and later laparoscopic surgical equipment for Maple Ridge Hospital (now Ridge Meadows Hospital).

Asoke's interest in community extended beyond medicine. He was curious, was widely read, and loved discussion. He reconnected with his cultural roots volunteering as president of the Lower Mainland Bengali Cultural Society for several years. In 1987, he founded Physicians with Interest in South Asia, alongside Kesaval Chetty, Arun Garg, Gurdev Gill, Ram Ready, and

Chuni Roy, to engage physicians in improving South Asian health outcomes. In Bengal, he founded a school for at-risk young women. He enjoyed and supported the arts, theatre, film, and classical Indian music.

Knowing one's home was important to Asoke. He explored much of British Columbia and Canada with his family. Driving the Alaska Highway on its 50th anniversary and exploring Haida Gwaii were favorite highlights. He also returned to many areas of India and Tibet. After retirement, he explored a liberal arts education, which he didn't get as a physician, to complement his travels. At Simon Fraser University, his studies included opera, Ibsen, Chinese poetry, Russian literature, apartheid, and *On the Origin of Species*.

His obligation to stay in Maple Ridge while on call turned Asoke into a thoughtful and determined gardener. He could talk about his garden plans for the next year and the next decade. He sourced rare trees and plants for his garden everywhere, from the VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver to Minter Gardens in Rosedale. He rounded on his plantings daily. At one time, there were 60 producing nut trees on the property. He also had an array of apples, cherries, plums, peaches, persimmons, and kiwis. He started attending Vancouver Rose Society meetings in the 1970s and later became a member of the Fraser Pacific Rose Society, developing his garden to accommodate 270 rose bushes. Asoke loved to produce food for his table, where he loved to host his children, grandchildren, and friends. He will be missed by them all.

Please consider donating to the Ridge Meadows Hospital Foundation (<https://rmhfoundation.com/donate/>).

—Sumitra Robertson, BA

—Hilda Stanger, MBBS, FRCPC
Maple Ridge