



Alan Godfrey Johnson

Professor of surgery who developed evidence based surgery and medical ethics

Alan Johnson rose rapidly through the ranks of academic surgery to become reader in surgery at Charing Cross Hospital in 1971, a post he held until moving to the chair in surgery in Sheffield in 1979. He combined excellence in surgical skills, sharp scientific aptitude, a rigorous approach to developing evidence based surgery, and a strong interest in medical ethics. He translated these interests into a body of published work which made an important contribution to the disciplines of gastroduodenal motility, hepatobiliary and upper gastrointestinal surgery, randomised surgical trials, and medical ethics.

In total, he edited or authored 10 textbooks, over 35 book chapters, and almost 200 original publications. Two of his books were published after his retirement, including a text on surgical palliative care, and his last book, entitled *Making Sense of Medical Ethics* and written jointly with his son Paul, was completed a month before his death.

He published prospective randomised trials evaluating the role of lithotripsy in the treatment of gallstones and a trial comparing laparoscopic with mini-

laparotomy cholecystectomy. The latter trial was hailed in 1996 as “setting a new standard for surgical research” by Richard Horton, editor of the *Lancet*, and was subsequently acclaimed in the journal’s annual review as one of the five most important papers published in the whole of gastroenterology in that year. His other major areas of clinical and research interest focused on the surgical management of peptic ulcer disease, portal hypertension, and Barrett’s oesophagus.

Alan was an inspirational teacher and championed the importance of the formal teaching of medical ethics in the undergraduate curriculum of several medical schools. His contribution to clinical and academic surgery was recognised in his election to the presidency of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland and a number of other professional organisations, including the **British Obesity Surgery Society** and the **National Association of Theatre Nurses**. Alan chaired the Standing Medical Advisory Committee to the Secretary of State for Health, and in the early 1990s he was chairman of the Specialty Advisory Committee in General Surgery. He also served on and chaired a number of Medical Research Council committees and had been on the editorial boards of the *British Journal of Surgery*, *Gut*, and *Neurogastroenterology and Motility*. He received honours from professional organisations worldwide, including an honorary fellowship of the American Surgical Association. In 2003 the University of Sheffield recognised his achievements by awarding him the honorary degree of doctor of science.

In addition to this impressive list of achievements, Alan is remembered by patients, colleagues, and friends for his personal attributes. He manifestly lived a moral life founded on a strong Christian commitment.

Even during the busiest periods of his career Alan was always able to find time for students and colleagues. He was as happy taking a senior house officer through a first inguinal hernia repair as he was guiding a senior trainee through a complex biliary reconstruction. He learnt

and evaluated new techniques throughout his surgical career and latterly had been a pioneer in the surgical treatment of obesity.

Alan was born in 1938, the younger son of Dr Douglas Johnson, who was a founder of the Christian Medical Fellowship, an organisation of which Alan was president at the time of his death. He was educated at Epsom College and read medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge, and University College, London, graduating in 1963. He played hockey and cricket for his school, university, and hospital and maintained a lifelong interest in sport. He was a craftsman and artist who made woodcarvings and painted with watercolours and pastels. He enjoyed music, playing the piano and organ, and was a patron of the Sheffield Chorale in which his wife sings. He also enjoyed country walks and ornithology. He was an active member of Christ Church, Fulwood, and a Sheffield church Burgess.

Alan died of a myocardial infarction in the churchyard of St John’s Church, Wotton, near Dorking, where he would have preached on “The Place of Compassion in Modern Medicine” at the St Luke’s Day service.

He is survived by his wife, Esther; sons, Paul, a paediatric surgeon in Oxford, and Andrew; and daughter, Fyona.

Malcolm W R Reed

Alan Godfrey Johnson, professor of surgery University of Sheffield, 1979-2003 (b 1938; q Cambridge/ University College Hospital, London, 1963; FRCS), died from a heart attack on 15 October 2006.

ADVICE

We will be pleased to receive obituary notices of around 250 words. Pressure on space means that in most cases we will be able to publish only about 100 words in the printed journal, but we can run a fuller version on our website.

We will take responsibility for shortening.

We do not send proofs. Good quality, original photographs are welcome. Please give a contact telephone number and, where possible, supply the obituary on a disk or by email to obituaries@bmj.com. If sending a picture electronically, please attach as a jpeg or a tiff rather than as part of a Word document.

We need to know the year of birth and exact date of death of the deceased, and we prefer obituaries to state the cause of death.

Michael Edgar Arnold



Former general practitioner Wembley, Middlesex, and Westbourne, Sussex (b 1919; q College of Physicians and Surgeons in Ireland 1944; MRCP), died from a stroke on 16 October 2006. Michael Edgar Arnold served on many BMA committees and was a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, championing trainees and medical student electives in general practice. He was the driving force behind one of London's first comprehensive health centres at Chalkhill, Wembley Park, and he ran the emergency services for major events at Wembley stadium. Michael moved to Sussex for a quieter life when his wife became ill, but he soon became a general practitioner in Westbourne until he retired aged 71. He was a lifelong member of the Chelsea Arts Club, and he maintained his interest in medical politics. Predeceased by his wife Margaret in 1982, he leaves two children and six grandchildren.
Andrew Arnold

Anthony ("Tony") Neville Gordon Clark

Former consultant in geriatric medicine Brighton and Sussex hospitals (b 1924; q Leeds 1948; MD, FRCP), died after a stroke on 11 April 2006. Anthony Neville Gordon Clark ("Tony") served his national service in the Royal Air Force, for a time in Aden, where he wrote his MD thesis on prickly heat. On demobilisation he worked at St James's Hospital, Leeds, before taking up a consultant's post in Stoke on Trent. He then set up a new department of geriatric medicine in Brighton. He wrote papers well into his retirement, and his most well known was the description of

Diogenes syndrome in the *Lancet* in 1975 on which he was the lead author. He was predeceased by his wife Charlotte, in 2003. They had no children.

Helen Watson

Greville Hoyle

Former general practitioner Tamworth,



Staffordshire (b 1922; q Birmingham 1945; MRCP), died from pneumonia on 2 November 2006. Greville Hoyle was a general practitioner in Tamworth for 42 years. He was also a police surgeon and regularly gave anaesthetics in the general hospital. He helped build Tamworth Health Centre, then one of the largest in the United Kingdom, and he was one of the first general practice trainers in the West Midlands. During 1972-88 he was general practitioner member for the district health authority. Greville worked with the St John Ambulance Brigade and was invested as a commander of the Order of St John in 1991. He also regularly judged national first aid competitions for the railways. He leaves a wife, Helen; three daughters; and six grandchildren.
Helen Hoyle, Mary Smith, Christine Wilcox, Ruth Booth

Geoffrey ("Geoff") Comins Mansfield



Former general practitioner Paignton, Devon (b 1924; q Glasgow 1951; DA,

DRCOG), died from Alzheimer's disease on 21 October 2006.

On leaving school in 1942 Geoffrey Comins Mansfield ("Geoff") enlisted in the Royal Artillery and was posted to India. He returned home a captain. He started as a medical student with the Army Reserve, and also acquired his pilot's licence flying Austers. After various house jobs he became a single handed general practitioner, giving anaesthetics in the local cottage hospital, and playing his full part with maternity work. Geoff loved sailing, took up gliding, and in retirement played golf. He leaves a wife, Gill; three sons; and six grandchildren.

J B Taylor

Ian Charles Aitchison Martin

Former consultant psychiatrist Memorial Hospital, Darlington (b 1934; q Leeds 1958; DPM, FRCPsych), d 7 November 2006.

Ian Charles Aitchison Martin did his national service at Netley Hospital, the army psychiatric unit in Southampton. He worked with Professor Max Hamilton before being appointed consultant in psychological medicine at Darlington Memorial Hospital. He was a founder member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and he later acquired the certificate of the Society of Medical and Dental Hypnotists. His main interest was the use of relaxation therapies for treating neuroses, and he published through Penguin a book on relaxation, as well as a tape on relaxation through hypnotherapy, both of which were well received. He never married.

M T Haslam

John Leonard Weeks

Former occupational physician forestry, mining, and nuclear industries, Canada (b 1926; q St Thomas' Hospital, London, 1953; CD, MD, FFOM), d 15 October 2006. John Leonard Weeks was demobilised as captain in 1947 from the 9th Gurkha Rifles after service in India and the Far East. In 1958 he and his family

emigrated to Canada, where he was an occupational physician until he retired in 1992. He helped found occupational medicine as a specialty in Canada, examined for the Royal College of Physicians (Canada), and was president of the Canadian Board of Occupational Medicine. In retirement he was honoured by the Occupational and Environmental Medical Association of Canada and the Manitoba Medical Association. John was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration in 1984. He leaves a wife, Mari-Ann; five children; and seven grandchildren.

Björn Weeks

Barbara Yvonne Wright



Staff grade cardiologist Yeovil District Hospital, Somerset (b 1949; q Charing Cross Hospital, London, 1971; DObst RCOG, DA), died from metastatic lung cancer on 8 July 2006.

Barbara Yvonne Wright moved to Somerset in 1973 as senior house officer in obstetrics and gynaecology. She then spent a year as a trainee in general practice but, missing the practical aspects of hospital practice, she moved back into posts in obstetrics and gynaecology and then anaesthetics. The post of clinical assistant in cardiac pacing was created for her in 1978.

She was at the forefront of the development of such a service in a district general hospital. She also took up palliative treatment of angina with neurostimulators. In 1994 she expanded her role into general cardiology and rapid access clinics in Yeovil, also running a session in urodynamics. She leaves Simon and her two adopted children.

Geoff Brigden