

OBITUARIES

Ian Douglas Hutchinson Todd

Jane Malcolm, Susan Todd, Peter Todd

Former consultant in radiotherapy and oncology and deputy director of radiotherapy Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester (b 1927, q Aberdeen, 1950; FRCP, FRCR), died from vascular dementia on 2 November 2011.

Ian Douglas Hutchinson Todd was born in Braemar. His father was in the civil service, which prompted many moves around the country, with Ian attending nine different schools before studying medicine at Aberdeen, where he qualified in 1950. House doctor posts were in and around London, and he met his future wife, Jo, a nurse in charge of the surgical theatres at Chase Farm Hospital, in 1951. He did his National Service in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Malaya in 1952-53.

Work references for Ian from the 1950s already identified him as a good doctor, inspiring confidence in his patients and colleagues. One reference noted that he was “rather shy on the one hand but with a great sense of humour.” You would recognise him by that description throughout his life. One colleague wrote, on hearing of his death, “He was a true gentleman but not without an impish streak.”

He started at the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute in Manchester as a registrar in 1958 and became a consultant in radiotherapy and oncology in 1963. He was deputy director of radiotherapy from 1979 until his retirement in 1988.

Ian enjoyed his life in medicine during the heyday of the NHS, especially the 30 years spent in the family atmosphere of the Christie Hospital. High spots included close involvement in the first clinical trials and co-authorship of first clinical paper on

tamoxifen, a well tolerated and effective drug for treating breast cancer, and a part in the exciting surge of activity in the investigation and treatment of lymphomas during the 1960s and 1970s. Ian was author of some 30 published papers. In a very different milieu, he was one of the original trustees of the Pat Seed Appeal Fund, named after a patient of Ian's. This fund was an extremely successful charity, raising money for high tech equipment including the then very new computed tomography scanners. Close involvement with patients gave Ian his greatest satisfaction at work, and he left wishes to thank his patients in his obituary. Ian was considered to be a kind, caring and compassionate doctor, an astute clinician and teacher, and a true gentleman.

During his long career he was a member of the council of the British Institute of Radiology, a member of council and of the education board of the Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR), an examiner for the FRCR from 1974 to 1977, the chairman of the part 2 examining board in 1976-79, the chairman of the Manchester Lymphoma Group in 1975-88, and a visiting professor of radiotherapy Fifth Cuban Cancer Congress, Havana, in 1978.

A necessary part of a clinician's life is to have counterbalancing interests. His were enjoying family life with Jo and their four children, reading, golf, and bridge. He died in Earlston, near Melrose.

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