Fyodor Grigorievich Uglov

Pioneering surgeon and teetotaller who operated until he was 99 and lived to be 103

Fyodor Grigorievich Uglov performed his last operation (removal of a neck tumour) in 2003 at the age of 99. He was a renowned cardiothoracic surgeon, an active member of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, and a Lenin prize laureate for developing and implementing surgical methods for treating lung disease.

For more than 40 years, from 1950 to 1991, he held the chair of hospital surgery at the First Leningrad Medical Institute (now the I P Pavlov St Petersburg State Medical University). And for more than 50 years, from 1953 to 2005, he was editor in chief of Vestnik khirurgii im I I Grekova (“I I Grekov Herald of Surgery”), a leading Russian surgical journal. During the last decades of his long life he became a prolific writer and a member of the Union of Soviet Writers (now the Union of Russian Writers), whose books have a circulation of around 6 million and are translated into 10 languages.

In his writings Uglov condemned drinking even small amounts of alcohol, smoking, abortions, rock and roll music, market reforms, and advertising, and suggested that the media should be returned to state control. He was chairman of the Union of Struggle for People’s Sobriety until his death. Sobriety centres, clubs, and alcohol-free places were established throughout Russia under his initiative.

Fyodor Uglov was born in 1904 in Chuguevo, a village in the Irkutsk region, the son of a metalworker who had been exiled to Siberia. Uglov trained to be a physician and surgeon at a district hospital in Kirensk (a town where his family lived, 1100 km from Irkutsk). He returned to Leningrad as a postgraduate student at the N1 surgical clinic of the State Institute for Postgraduate Medical Training, which was headed by Professor Nikolai Petrov.

In 1939 he defended his kandidatskaya dissertation on teratomas of the presacral region, and was mobilised to the Finnish front. On demobilisation in 1940, he was assistant professor at Petrov’s clinic, staying in Leningrad during the siege. During the great patriotic war of 1941-5, Uglov was the head of the surgical department of an evacuation hospital based at the surgical clinic of the State Institute for Postgraduate Medical Training. In 1942 he was promoted to associate professor. He defended his doctorskaya dissertation on lung resection in 1949, a year later becoming a professor and chair of hospital surgery at the First Leningrad Medical Institute, where he worked until his death.

Uglov authored and coauthored more than 600 scientific papers and several medical books. He was a pioneer in cardiothoracic surgery in the former Soviet Union (USSR). In 1947 he performed the third case of pneumonectomy in chronic lung suppuration and the third case of radical surgery for lung cancer. He also performed the first successful portocaval anastomosis in portal hypertension (in 1952), and one of the first resections of the middle third of the oesophagus in cancer. He was the first to use deep hypothermia in thoracic surgery in the USSR (in 1953). He started surgical treatment of heart disease in 1953, introduced an original approach to adhesiologic pericarditis, and developed surgery for the late stages of mitral stenosis and implantation of mitral valve prostheses (in 1964). In 1967 he founded the All-Union Research Institute for Pulmonology and was its first director until 1972.

Uglov was married three times and fathered five children, his first child being born in 1929 and his last in 1970. He leaves his third wife, Emilia Viktorovna Uglova (née Streltsova), a cardiologist, who is 32 years younger. Fyodor Grigorievich Uglov, surgeon, professor, and chair of hospital surgery, I P Pavlov St Petersburg State Medical University, St Petersburg (b 1904, d 22 June 2008). Cite this as: BMJ 2008;337:a866

OBITUARIES continue on p 301

For the full versions of articles in this section see bmj.com
Brian Campbell

Former consultant ophthalmologist Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry (b 1920; q University College Dublin 1945; MCh, FRCSI), died from pneumonia on 2 November 2007. The brother of Mary Campbell (“Mollie”) (BMJ 2008;337:a920), Brian Campbell also trained in ophthalmology, initially at the Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin, and Moorfields Hospital, London, before returning to Northern Ireland. He was appointed to the Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast, in 1952 as an ophthalmic surgeon and took up a consultant post in 1966 at Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry, where he worked until his retirement in 1987. He was a keen walker, travelling the continent with his rucksack well into retirement. Predeceased by his wife, Ethna, in 1981, he leaves three children and three grandchildren.

Deirdre Campbell

Cite this as: BMJ 2008;337:a920

Mary Campbell

Former ophthalmologist Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh (b 1917; q University College Dublin 1940; MCh, FRCS), died from a heart attack on 11 September 2007. Mary Campbell (“Mollie”) did her ophthalmology training in Wolverhampton before returning to her native Omagh, where she worked for over 30 years as assistant ophthalmic surgeon until her retirement in 1985. She gave up ophthalmic surgery to take up the post in Omagh, concentrating on school eye clinics. She looked after the eyes of a generation in the counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh. She was great company to her widowed mother and remained close to her two brothers, Eddie and Brian (BMJ 2008;337:a921).

Deirdre Campbell

Cite this as: BMJ 2008;337:a920

John Gwilym Howells

Former director, Institute of Family Psychiatry, Ipswich (b 1918; q King’s College and Charing Cross Hospital, London, 1943; AKC, MD, FRCPsych), d 12 November 2007. From 1950 to 1985 John Gwilym Howells was director of the Institute of Family Psychiatry—an institute associated with Cambridge University and the only research and teaching institute in a district hospital. He instigated family psychiatry in the United Kingdom, having been trained as a child psychiatrist, and championed the establishment of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. A prolific author, he was a sought after lecturer and trainer nationally and internationally. In retirement he developed a new classification for Clematis, finishing his last book on the genus two hours before he died. He leaves a wife, Ola; four children; and eight grandchildren.

Cheryl Adams, Roger Howells

Cite this as: BMJ 2008;337:a756

Altan Kayan

Former consultant in audiological medicine Queen’s Medical Centre University Hospital, Nottingham (b 1938; q Aegean University, Turkey, 1962), d 28 June 2007. Altan Kayan became associate professor in neurology in the Aegean University in 1974. He was then a research fellow in clinical neurophysiology in Oslo and in neuro-otology in London. Settling in the United Kingdom, Altan returned to clinical training and was appointed senior registrar in audiological medicine at the Royal National Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital in 1985, culminating in his appointment as consultant in Nottingham and Derby. He continued to write research papers, focusing on tinnitus. He gained wide respect for improving the lives of patients and in medicolegal cases. A popular teacher, he strongly believed in the principles of the NHS. He leaves five children.

Denis Kayan, Jan Kayan, Zizi Kayan
Laura Kayan, Richard Iller Kayan, Deirdre Lucas

Cite this as: BMJ 2008;337:a776

Sanmugam Mahadeva

Former lecturer in clinical pharmacology Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, London (b 1931; q Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1957), d 11 June 2008 after several strokes. After qualification, Sanmugam Mahadeva worked in Jaffna and Colombo and subsequently lectured in clinical pharmacology at the Faculty of Medicine in Colombo. In 1974 he moved to the United Kingdom, working at the Royal Free and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals before joining Charing Cross Medical School as lecturer in clinical pharmacology. He taught there for 23 years and was on its board of examiners until his retirement. With a passion for education, he was loved and respected by his students for his skill as a teacher and his fatherly commitment to them. He leaves a wife, Thevi; three children; and five grandchildren.

Salinee Kang

Cite this as: BMJ 2008;337:a944

Sarah Jane Mitchell

Consultant neonatologist Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth, Western Australia (b 1966; q The London 1991; BSc Hons (Psychology), MRCP, MRCPCH), died from breast cancer on 22 May 2008. After training in paediatrics in north London, Sarah Jane Mitchell developed a special interest in neonatology. Her passion for travel led her to Sydney in 1997, where she specialised in neonatal transport medicine. The completion of her CCST in the UK coincided with the diagnosis of her illness, but she became director of the Western Australian Neonatal Transport Service in Perth. She continued to work, travel, and complete triathlons during chemotherapy. She leaves a husband, Steve.

Russell Burcombe

Cite this as: BMJ 2008;337:a923

William Bruce Robertson

Former professor of histopathology St George’s Hospital Medical School, London (b 1923; q St Andrews 1947; BSc, MD, FRCPath), d 20 April 2008. After two years’ military service in East Africa and training as a pathologist in northern England, William Bruce Robertson (“Bill”) was senior lecturer during 1956-64 at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, there introducing placental bed biopsy. He returned to the UK in 1964 as reader in morbid anatomy at St George’s Hospital Medical School, being professor of histopathology from 1969 to 1984. He was also visiting professor, Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium. He was director of studies at the Royal College of Pathologists part time from 1984 to 1992. Predeceased by his wife, Mary, he leaves two daughters and four grandchildren.

Annie Boon

Cite this as: BMJ 2008;337:a937