OBITUARIES

John Lamont Cameron Dall
Consultant geriatrician Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow (b 1929; q Glasgow, 1953; OBE, MD, FRCP Glas, OStJ), died after a short illness on 17 June 2022
John Lamont Cameron Dall made major contributions to the care of elderly patients throughout the UK, Europe, and Canada. He was the driving force behind the Victoria geriatric unit in Glasgow, which opened in 1971. The unit became a powerful magnet for young doctors who then became consultants elsewhere. He was an influential president of the British Geriatric Society. John was recruited by the Canadian government to plan geriatric services in Canada. His achievements were recognised by various awards. He took great pleasure in the achievements of his family and was predeceased by his wife, Lilian, John leaves great grandchildren.
Barbara Dall, Patricia Hawthorn
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Archie Hutchison
Consultant urologist Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow (b 1930; q Glasgow 1953; FRCS Ed, FRCs Glas), died from the complications of prostatic cancer on 9 June 2022
Archie Hutchison did national service in Hong Kong with what he described as “a very posh regiment.” He subsequently trained in surgery, in Dumfries and later at the Victoria Infirmary. He was attracted to the evolving specialty of urology and became consultant at the Victoria and Hairmyres Hospital. From the mid-1970s he was based solely at the Victoria, where he worked with the late Bev Abel to develop the service. He served as surgical divisional chair. He was a popular after dinner speaker and enjoyed choral singing, gardening, golf, and travelling with his wife, Anne. She died in 2019 and he leaves three children, nine grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. He predeceased his lifelong friend and colleague John Dall by eight days.
Carol Biggart, David C Smith
Cite this as: BMJ 2022;378:o2290

William Lindsay Morrison
Consultant cardiologist Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital (b 1956; q Dundee, 1980; MD, FRCP), died from pancreatic cancer on 1 August 2022
William Lindsay Morrison (“Lindsay”) was appointed a consultant in Liverpool in 1992. He made an important contribution to the development of the cardiology service as a coronary interventionist, but he also had an interest in adult congenital heart disease and was a pioneer in atrial septal defect and patent foramen ovale closure. His annual and total case volume for these procedures was one of the largest in the UK. He was known for being a kind, gentle, supportive, and loyal colleague. He was dedicated and hardworking, and he maintained full commitment to the demanding emergency care service. He was much loved by the thousands of patients for whom he provided such expert and compassionate care until his retirement in 2020 owing to ill health.
John Morris, Rod Stables
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John Millie Dow Galloway
Consultant vascular surgeon Hull (b 1936; q Edinburgh 1960; MD, ChM, FRCS), died from pulmonary fibrosis on 12 August 2022
John Millie Dow Galloway (“Ian”) was appointed to the then Hull Hospitals as a general surgeon with a vascular interest in 1970. Initially he provided a singlehanded vascular service, but by 1979 a vascular unit offering a round the clock service had been developed. Ian’s professional connections attracted a succession of senior vascular trainees from Australia, South Africa, and Greece to Hull. Before Ian retired he was the medical director of the Hull and East Riding NHS Trust for four years. In retirement he enjoyed golf, travel, gardening, and reading. He spent the last few years of his life caring for Margaret, his wife of 60 years, who died in October 2021. He leaves two sons (one a retired metabolic physician) and five grandchildren.
Alan Wilkinson, Peter Galloway, Peter Lee
Cite this as: BMJ 2022;378:o2333

Henry McWilliam Lyle
GP (b 1926; q Queen’s University, Belfast, 1949), died from old age on 26 April 2022
Henry McWilliam Lyle (“Harry”) was the first doctor in his farming family. Tuberculosis halted his surgical training. Later he chose to move to Thurcroft, a mining village in Yorkshire, where he worked as a family doctor for the next 40 years. The two man partnership looked after the medical needs of 6000 patients, including home birth deliveries and emergencies down the pit. He welcomed the arrival of Eric Simpson in the 1980s, which issued in a more modern medical era. Harry was a generous man and a great story teller who loved his family. He was predeceased by his wife, Sadie, the love of his life for 62 years—he said he could never have done his job without her. He leaves two children, six grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.
Sarah Clesham
Cite this as: BMJ 2022;378:o2346

Kenneth Evans
GP (b 1938; q Guy’s Hospital Medical School, London, 1961; FRCP), died from pancreatic cancer on 1 August 2022
Kenneth Evans (“Ken”) was a GP and trainer working in Hildenborough, Kent. In 1964, he joined a two handed practice with four premises. One partner immediately took a two week holiday, leaving Ken, totally new to general practice, with a heavy workload and a map. Patients would arrive, invited and uninvited, and sit silently in the hallway waiting, along with his family, for his return from home visits, in his Triumph Vitesse. Ken’s GP trainees became honorary family members, invited for Sunday lunch, with at least one long weekly tutorial closeted in the study. He ran the Kent general practice training scheme, including the summer school at Wye College, Ashford. A principled and private man, Ken died at home and leaves his wife, Ann, and four children.
Sarah Evans, Robyn Evans
Cite this as: BMJ 2022;378:o2292
Peter Rhys-Evans

Driving force behind the Oracle Cancer Trust, and author of The Waterside Ape

Peter Howell Rhys-Evans (b 1948; q Barts, London, 1971; FRCS), died from complications after streptococcus bovis septicemia on 3 June 2022

Peter Rhys-Evans was a key inspiration and the driving force behind the Oracle Cancer Trust, which he helped set up to improve outcomes for patients with head and neck cancer worldwide. The influential consultant ear, nose, and throat (ENT) and head and neck surgeon was determined to secure better support for an area of medicine he and colleagues felt was overlooked. The charity he founded in 2001, and then chaired for many years, has raised more than £6m for treatment and research and is one of the largest of its kind in the UK.

Head and neck cancer

Rhys-Evans was a pioneer in conservation, laser, and functional reconstructive surgery for patients with head and neck cancer to help with swallowing, speech, and cosmetic appearance and improve quality of life.

He wrote an award winning textbook on head and neck cancer and some 200 scientific and research papers.

Yet he still found time to fulfil a passionate 30 year research interest in human evolution. His controversial book, The Waterside Ape, published in 2018, explored the theory of evolution from ape ancestors using medical, rather than just fossil, evidence, drawing on expertise in his specialty. He argued that a pathological condition of the external ear canal supported the theory that man in his early development acquired an affinity for an aquatic environment. Challenged by some scientists, it was enthusiastically championed by others, notably David Attenborough, who endorsed it as “a very, very important” book for recognising that the “paleo history of humanity has been quite misguided.”

Head and neck cancer accounts for 7-8% of all cancers in the UK. Despite its prevalence, Rhys-Evans, who was a consultant surgeon at the Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Trust, London, from 1986 to 2016, felt it got far less attention than breast, colon, lung, or prostate cancer. Rhys-Evans’ special interests were swallowing and voice problems; the treatment of thyroid and salivary gland disorders, including goitres and other benign and malignant tumours; and other lumps in the neck.

Rhys-Evans was a staunch proponent of centralisation of cancer care in the hands of specialist head and neck cancer surgeons and of multidisciplinary working with colleagues, including physicians and specialists in chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and speech and language therapy.

Research programmes into ways of improving treatment range from robotic surgical techniques to viral therapies and new techniques in radiotherapy aimed at targeting cancer cells without damaging the surrounding tissue.

Career

It is said that Rhys-Evans wanted to be a surgeon from the age of 4, following in the footsteps of his father, a consultant ENT surgeon in the army medical corps in the second world war who won the Military Cross.

After qualifying Rhys-Evans studied ENT surgery and plastic surgery. He lectured in anatomy at the University of Bristol in 1973-74 and became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1978. He spent a year at Paris University and was awarded a postgraduate head and neck cancer degree in 1981.

He was a senior lecturer at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, University of Birmingham, for five years. While there, he contacted Eric Blom in Indianapolis regarding the newly designed Blom-Singer voice prosthesis valves, which enabled speech restoration in laryngectomy patients and pioneered this service to his patients at an early stage.

Rhys-Evans, who also worked with thoracic surgeons at the Royal Brompton Hospital, was on the staff of King Edward VII Hospital and practised at the Cromwell Hospital, the London Clinic, and the Lister Hospital.

His interest in human evolution and the “aquatic ape” theory developed over his career. “He was passionate about it as he was in many aspects of his life, but it came second to his primary interest of patients with head and neck cancer,” says Williamson. From 1992, when he published his first paper on “the paranasal sinuses and other enigmas, an aquatic evolutionary theory,” Rhys-Evans was involved in three different programmes with David Attenborough and a BBC Radio 4 series, The Waterside Ape.

Rhys-Evans maintained that “exostoses,” which develop as bulging growths in the ear canal and occur among people who spend a lot of time diving and swimming, can be discovered in early human skulls. He argued this could help explain why humans are physiologically so uniquely different from other primates and other land based mammals, having adapted physiologically and cognitively to a littoral environment.

When Rhys-Evans’ writings were challenged by some critics as “pseudoscience,” he and his supporters took them head on, arguing they had ignored “peer reviewed research from the past 15 years that points to waterside habitation and adaptations at many points in human evolutionary history.”

Rhys-Evans was assistant editor of the Journal of Laryngology and Otology for nine years and examiner for the Royal College of Surgeons for 12 years.

Rhys-Evans leaves his widow, Fran; and three children.

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