Elliot Philipp was an obstetrician and gynaecologist with great intellect and many interests, which enabled him to develop a career of many strands. He had a great interest in learned medical societies. In 1972 a group of gynaecologists were attending a European meeting of fertility specialists, and Patrick Steptoe, of in vitro fertilisation fame, invited a small group of the British contingent to discuss the possibility of establishing a British Fertility Society. Elliot was one, and the following year an even smaller steering group met at the Royal Society of Medicine to draft a constitution and structure for the society.

Elliot was appointed acting secretary, and he organised the first clinical meeting of the society at the Royal Northern Hospital in March 1974. Twenty two founder members attended, and demonstrations of new techniques and operations were given, such as tubal microsurgery, laparoscopy, and male infertility surgery. The aims were to arrange meetings of specialists and especially with other national societies.

By 1983 the society had agreed to expand its membership to include scientists working in related disciplines, such as the growing number of embryologists involved in assisted conception. Rapid expansion occurred and it is now the UK voice of fertility, with more than 1000 members. Its functions include organising training courses and meetings, granting approval for recognition of training courses and modules, and approving and registering training centres. It also advises on treatment procedures and policies, at a clinical level and through government and regulatory bodies.

Elliot’s writings included several hundred scientific publications, which were produced between 1947 and 2000. He was also an enthusiast in writing for the lay public and was medical correspondent on the long defunct News Chronicle, and he wrote many magazine articles and books on women’s health. His greatest academic publication was Scientific Foundations of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, which he co-edited with Dame Josephine Barnes and Michael Newton. The first edition appeared in 1970. This book quickly became a must read for candidates of the newly established part I exam for membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and was the most comprehensive account of the basic sciences underpinning the study of obstetrics and gynaecology. In retirement Elliot and Michael Dowd wrote The History of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, which was published in 1994 and is still regarded as a most readable and complete history of the subject.

Elliot’s parents, who were of German-Jewish origin, came to London from Hamburg in 1908 to enable his father to set up an office as a metal dealer. They lived in Stoke Newington, London, where Elliot was born in 1915. From the age of 7, he declared that he wanted to be a gynaecologist. He went to St Paul’s School, from where he gained a place at Cambridge to study medicine, and then to the Middlesex Hospital for his clinical training.

In 1939 he qualified in medicine and published his first book, The Technique of Sex, under a pseudonym. Later he confessed that the book was written without any personal experience. That same year he met and fell in love with Lucie Hackenbroch and married her when he had known her for only five weeks. They remained happily married for almost 50 years until her death in 1988. The haste for marriage may have been because of the looming war.

In 1945 Elliot returned to his postgraduate training in obstetrics and gynaecology, which he pursued in Cambridge and London. His first consultant appointment was in 1952, at Oldchurch Hospital, Romford. Although busy doing research and writing at that time, he established a private practice in Harley Street. He might have become a traditional London consultant, working hard for the National Health Service part time and spending the rest of his time building a large practice, but his independence of mind and spirit, and inquiring and energetic mind were never going to allow that to fill his life. He had affability and charm in spades, and although not an outsider he was certainly outside the standard mould of conservative male British gynaecologists of the time. His German-Jewish origins; his close association with his mother’s cousin, Sigmund Freud; and an innate desire to succeed and be seen to do so may have contributed to his unusual character.

In 1964 he left Romford, being appointed to the Royal Northern and City of London Maternity Hospitals. He retained an Essex connection, having bought a cottage there while a medical student. He loved to visit his coastal retreat, and used it to write and walk for most of his life. His fluency in German and French meant that he was able to be an early, true European, and he developed professional contacts in Europe as well as becoming a part time consultant at the French Hospital (later to become La Dispensaire Française) in Shaftesbury Avenue. It was obligatory to conduct all consultations in French. He would send his junior doctors to run the clinic when on leave, and many of us found the French language more difficult than the clinical problems. He was also appointed as gynaecologist to Holloway Prison, where he treated patients with a gentleness and respect that was in sharp contrast to the harshness generally shown to prisoners at that time.


Marcus Setchell
Elliot E Philipp, obstetrician and gynaecologist (b 1915; q 1939, Cambridge and Middlesex Hospital), died from pneumonia on 27 September 2010.

Cite this as: BMJ 2010;341:c6095
**Geoffrey Stephen Clark**

Consultant anaesthetist Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport (b 1948; q Guy’s Hospital, London, 1973; BSc, FRCA), died from bowel cancer on 5 May 2010. Geoffrey Stephen Clark (“Geoff”) was appointed consultant anaesthetist at the Royal Gwent Hospital in 1983. Unusually, he was asked to become college tutor soon after and served a full two terms, undertaking this task with total commitment and enthusiasm and championing the cause of trainee teaching. He remained interested in the training and welfare of trainees throughout his consultant career, becoming the first programme director for the Welsh School of Anaestheisa and showing the same diligence in this role as he had as college tutor. Geoff was quietly spoken with a dry sense of humour. Among his many interests were music, books, skiing, and walking. He leaves a sister and her family.

**John Butler**

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Cite this as: BMJ 2010;341:c6188

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**Gerald Donaldson**

Former general practitioner and assistant medical director Southern Area Hospice Services, Newry (b 1929; q Queen’s, Belfast, 1952), died on 8 January 2010 from a heart attack 10 months after Whipple operation for cancer of head of pancreas. Gerald Donaldson practised in Newry from 1965 until retirement in 1989. In 1990 he became assistant medical director of hospice services, and a floor in the hospice was named after him in recognition of his work. Gerald had many sporting interests. He coxed a successful Queen’s Eight. He and his friends entered the Guinness book of records for playing nine holes of golf in seven countries in one day—in Gerald’s case with the same ball. He was also chief medical officer to Down Royal Race Course. He leaves a wife, Joy; two children; and five grandchildren.

**George Foster**

Cite this as: BMJ 2010;341:c6189

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**Antonio Ettore Keith Salvi**

Former consultant geriatrician West Dorset (b 1911; q Guy’s Hospital, London, 1935), d 10 April 2010. Antonio Ettore Keith Salvi (“Anthony”) was ship’s surgeon in a troop transport ship of the Shaw Savill Line during the second world war. He came ashore to pursue his interest in treating tuberculosis, first as medical superintendent of the British Legion sanatorium in Boscombe, then as chest physician for the West Dorset Hospital group. Some years later he retrained in geriatrics, returning to West Dorset to set up the area’s first comprehensive geriatric service, an activity that gave him the greatest professional satisfaction. In his retirement he was medical adviser for the Abbeyfield Society and subsequently for Weldmar Hospice in Dorchester, his home town. Predeceased by his wife, Josephine, in 1979, he leaves a daughter and three grandchildren.

**K D Stephenson**

Cite this as: BMJ 2010;341:c6185

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**Eric Gordon Hardy**

Former consultant general surgeon Chester (b 1918; q Aberdeen 1940; MD, FRCSed, FRCS), died on 9 July 2010 after a fall. After service in the Royal Air Force, Eric Gordon Hardy trained in surgery in the United Kingdom and United States before settling in Chester in 1959. Known as “the surgeon’s surgeon,” he was expert in general surgery and urology, and many of his trainees still pass on his methods. Founder and president of the Liverpool and North West Society of Surgeons, and president of the Chester and North Wales Medical Society, Eric retired in 1983 to farm in Cheshire. An avid correspondent to the broadsheets, he was respected for his comments on medical and world matters. Predeceased by his wife, Shirley, in 1994, he leaves three sons and four grandsons.

**Mary Al Naber**

Cite this as: BMJ 2010;341:c6186

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**Margaret Anne Stephenson (née Conley)**

Former clinical assistant genitourinary medicine and otorhinolaryngology Darlington Memorial Hospital (b 1928; q Newcastle 1954), died from multiple myeloma on 4 July 2010. Margaret Anne Stephenson (née Conley) held hospital posts in medicine, surgery, and obstetrics and then retired to raise her family. After 12 years she returned to medicine and held clinical assistantships in genitourinary medicine and ear, nose, and throat surgery for 30 years. She was a keen gardener and a notable cook. She was widely travelled and loved flying, which included two flights on Concorde and, at the age of 73, “looping the loop” in a Tiger Moth. She leaves Kenneth, her husband of 54 years; three children and six grandchildren.

**Alison Whyte**

Cite this as: BMJ 2010;341:c6190

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**Louis Steele Whyte**

Former general practitioner Muirend, Glasgow (b 1923; q Glasgow 1946), d 10 June 2010. After a house job at Stonehouse Hospital, Louis Steele Whyte undertook national service in the Royal Army Medical Corps stationed in Germany. On returning to Scotland in 1950, he joined Samuel Dunn in general practice in the south side of Glasgow, covering parts of the Gorbals, Kingspark, Castlemilk, and Muirend. On the death of his partner in the early 1960s, Louis continued as a sole practitioner until his retirement in 1988, latterly covering mainly the Muirend area. He had a strong interest in motor sport, often travelling far and wide to attend races, but his first love was general practice and his unequivocal commitment to his patients. He leaves a wife, Margaret; two sons; and five grandchildren.

**Mary Al Naber**

Cite this as: BMJ 2010;341:c6187

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**George Keith Thomas**

Former consulting surgeon Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital, Orillia, Ontario, Canada (b 1923; q Queen’s, Belfast, 1945; FRCS, FRCS), d 12 September 2010. After graduation, George Keith Thomas (“Keith”) was a medical officer in the Royal Air Force, serving in post-war Germany. He was then ship’s surgeon on a private liner in Asia and the Middle East before embarking on extensive surgical training at 10 different UK hospitals. He emigrated to Canada in 1956 and was consulting surgeon at Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital for 33 years, retiring in 1990. He leaves a wife, Inga-Karin, whom he married in 1954; two sons; and four grandchildren.

**Eric Thomas**

Cite this as: BMJ 2010;341:c6189

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**OBITUARIES**

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