

# Obituaries

## Peter Ambrose Gardiner

Ophthalmologist who developed a vision test for children and who wrote frankly about his lifestyle

Peter Gardiner once wrote that his lifestyle so disgusted the medical establishment and increased managers' costs that he was on a hit list. In a frank and unrepentant anecdotal report published in the *BMJ* just after his 81st birthday he encouraged "all those who are worried by their lifestyle not to despair" (*BMJ* 1994;309:1709-10). "My diet has always included generous amounts of meat, butter, eggs, fried foods, chips, cheese," he wrote. "I have always drunk plenty of alcohol," he added. But perhaps his trademark was the cigarette and holder. He described himself as "for 60 years a heavy smoker of cigarettes—for 50 years always with a holder. The amount of tar on the cleaner has shown what my lungs have been spared."

After school at Westminster and medical training at Guy's Hospital, Peter specialised in ophthalmology, proceeding to an MD in London with research into myopia in 1960. During the second world war he served in the Royal Air Force and was posted to Iceland as a squadron leader.

Back in civilian life he was appointed ophthalmic surgeon at Barnet General Hospital and research ophthalmologist at Guy's,



where he evolved the Guy's colour vision test and later became consultant emeritus in ophthalmology.

For many years he was a chief clinical assistant at Moorfields Eye Hospital in High

Holborn, but his favourite work was caring for disabled children as ophthalmologist to the now defunct Inner London Education Authority. He co-founded the eye group of the Spastics Society (now Scope) with Ronnie MacKeith and Mary Sheridan, and will be remembered in conjunction with the latter for the universally used Sheridan-Gardiner test for young children.

Peter produced the first edition of the *BMJ*'s first ABC book, the *ABC of Ophthalmology*, which was translated into several languages.

He retired to Woodbridge in Suffolk in 1978, where he kept up a great practical interest in gardening until his last year.

Predeceased by his wife, Bridget, he leaves three children and four grandchildren. [GORDON CATFORD]

*Peter Ambrose Gardiner, consultant emeritus in ophthalmology Guy's Hospital, London, and former consultant Barnet General Hospital and to the Inner London Education Authority; b 1913; q Guy's Hospital 1937; DOMS, MD; died from heart failure and old age on 4 February 2002.*

## Ruth Bowden

*Former professor of anatomy University of London and the Royal College of Surgeons (b 1915; q London 1939; OBE, DSc, FRCS), died on 19 December 2001 from injuries sustained as a pedestrian in a road incident.*

During the second world war Ruth studied peripheral nerve injuries in Oxford, where her work is now on permanent exhibition. She returned to the Royal Free Hospital and was made professor of anatomy aged 36 and later president of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Being unmarried her staff and students were her family. She was outspoken and businesslike and also loyal and friendly. She regarded possessions as a responsibility and her actions were of a piece with her deep Christian faith. She supported activities ranging from a hospice in London and a church warehouse for goods and equipment to be sent abroad, to leprosy treatment overseas and a children's hospital in Poland. [MARGARET HOWARD, DAVID TYRRELL]

## Debabrata Dutta

*Former general practitioner Leicester (b Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, 1939; q Calcutta 1964), died from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease on 1 January 2002.*

Debu began working in London in 1968, and shortly afterwards moved to Birmingham to work in orthopaedics. He left to commence GP training and joined the University of Leicester student health service in 1980. He remained in the same practice until 1996. Debu had lifelong interests in Indian classical music and cricket. Both pastimes gave him great pleasure in his last years, which were marred by ill health. He leaves a wife, Delia; and a son. [DELIA DUTTA]

## Eileen Fyffe Gibb (née Baird)

*General practitioner Grantham 1947-77 (b Hitchin 1916; q Glasgow 1940), died from breast cancer on 13 April 2002.*


Eileen grew up in Scotland and read chemistry at Glasgow University before switching to medicine. After a period in various northern hospitals she settled in Grantham with her husband, Ian, and worked in practice with him for 30 years. She was closely involved in local BMA activities. Her interests included travel, fine art, and music. Predeceased by her husband, she leaves two sons and two grandsons. [RONALD GIBB]

## Harry Richardson Gray

*General practitioner Gravesend, Kent, 1948-85 (b Wallasey, Cheshire, 1917; q Liverpool University 1941), d 4 April 2002.*


During the second world war, Harry joined Ian Fleming's secret army, "30 Assault Unit." Its mission was to enter locations ahead of the rest of the Allied Forces to acquire intelligence information before the enemy had a chance to destroy it. Harry was one of the colourful characters in the unit, working



outside the Geneva Convention ahead of the Allied landings in Normandy and the liberation of Paris. He was only one of three medical officers in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve to qualify as a parachutist during the war and he was mentioned in dispatches. Harry became a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, although he did not always see eye to eye with the college. During the last few years of his life he had Parkinson's disease, a lung tumour, and cataracts. He also had three hip operations. He eventually succumbed to a rapidly growing lymphoma and died peacefully. Married three times, he leaves his third wife, Sue, and two sons from his first marriage. [JANET HALL] 

### Alfred Gordon Hooker

*Former general practitioner Ludlow (b Foochow, China, 1916; q University College Hospital 1940), d 12 March 2002.*


Gordon's early years were spent in China, where his father was a medical missionary. After house jobs at Hemel Hempstead he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. Within a few weeks of landing in north Africa in November 1941 he was captured and spent 18 months each in Italy and Germany before he escaped via Russia. After the war he was a traditional family doctor in Ludlow for 35 years. Gordon had a great love of nature and enjoyed classical music. He leaves a wife of 60 years, Joan; two children; and four grandchildren. [JONATHAN HOOKER] 

### Israel ("Issy") Kolvin



*Bowlby emeritus professor of child and family mental health Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust (b Johannesburg, South Africa, 1929; q Witwatersrand 1955), died after a long illness on 12 March 2002.*


Issy became interested in psychiatry as a house physician and left South Africa to

train at Edinburgh University. He then specialised further in child and adolescent psychiatry, becoming consultant in charge of the Nuffield Psychology and Psychiatry Unit in Newcastle upon Tyne. He was appointed to a personal chair in 1977. His unit became well known for the quality of training and clinical service it provided, as well as the range of significant research it carried out. This included a systematic attempt to evaluate the effectiveness of psychotherapeutic techniques with children, one of the largest studies in the world. Later he continued research into deprivation and resilience. He became John Bowlby professor of child and family mental health in 1990. [LIONEL HERSOV] 

### Alasdair Miles Mackay




*Former consultant histopathologist Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Trust (b Glasgow 1935; q Glasgow 1960; BSc, MD), died from sequelae of Christmas disease on 20 March 2002.*

Alasdair was a gifted student. Initially his research interests were directed towards the cortex of the adrenal gland. By the late 1960s more than half of all the world's then published electron micrographs of that organ, normal and abnormal, were attributable to him. Later his interests moved progressively towards the hospital service and postgraduate training aspects of his specialty. A delightful rationalist, Alasdair regularly attended Pathological Society meetings where he was a kenspeckle figure, not because of his red hair but on account of his taste in floral ties. He leaves two children; and three grandchildren. [ERIC WALKER] 

### Donald Angus MacLeod




*Former general practitioner Grimsby, senior medical officer Bradford University, and medical adviser to the chief inspector of prisons (b Manchester 1921; q Manchester 1946; MD, DCH, MRCP), d 16 November 2001.*

Donald entered general practice in Grimsby in 1951. In 1966 he moved to Bradford University to set up the student health service. This grew to include all the tertiary students within the city. He retired from this post in 1982 and was appointed medical adviser to Sir James Hennessey, the then chief inspector of prisons. In 1986 he retired completely to Harrogate to develop a garden in unpromising conditions. Sadly, Donald's post retirement life was increasingly hampered by Parkinson's disease. He died several days after a volvulus operation. He leaves a wife, Stella; two sons; and three grandchildren. [DONALD ANGUS MACLEOD, JAMIE MACLEOD] 

### M G Sahadevan




*Consultant physician and neurologist, and emeritus professor of medicine Calicut Medical College, India (b Badagara 1929; q Madras 1952; FRCP), died 13 February 2002.*

Sahadevan came to England and worked at Hammersmith Hospital, London (1959-63), returning to India by driving his Hillman Minx all the way from London to Calicut with some of his adventurous English and Australian friends. He taught at Calicut Medical College, the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune (1965-69), and Alleppey and Trivandrum colleges, and retired as professor of medicine and superintendent of Calicut Medical College Hospital. Sahadevan was the first recipient of the Indian government's Best Doctor Award. He leaves a wife; two sons; and his grandchildren. [K P VIJAYAKUMARAN, RANJIT SAHADEVAN] 

### Theodore Edward Waine

*Former consultant anaesthetist Coventry hospitals (b Dublin 1910; q St George's 1937; FRCA), d 1 February 2002.*

Theodore qualified as a dental surgeon before training as a doctor. During the second world war he was a singlehanded general practitioner at Byfield, Northamptonshire. A person of strong opinions, during his 25 years in Coventry he was very involved in anaesthetic and medical management. He developed the widely used Cape-Waine ventilator. Predeceased by his wife, Goody, he leaves two sons and three grandchildren. [HOWEL JONES] 

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