

David Morley

Champion for child health in poor countries

David Morley saved the lives of many thousands of children in developing countries and made massive contributions to improving their health and development. When David qualified in medicine in 1947 more than one in four children in developing countries died before their fifth birthday. As a young doctor in a mission hospital in Nigeria, David challenged the assumption that children's main treatment should come from hospitals. He established the basis for primary health care for children, which is now used by governments and agencies worldwide. He set up training courses for senior paediatricians and nurses from all over the world, supported by Unicef and the World Health Organization, reorienting their work. Through the charity he established David sent educational materials to many thousands of frontline workers.

David was born in 1923 in Northamptonshire, the youngest of seven children. He was schooled at home and later went to school at Haywards Heath and then Marlborough College. David studied natural sciences at Clare College, Cambridge, during which time he published papers on the sensitivity of different bacteria to penicillin. David qualified in medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London, and worked at the Sunderland Children's Hospital, where he met and married Aileen Leyburn, the ward sister. They moved to Newcastle to work with Professor Donald Court on the influential Thousand Family Study, tracking the health of children in poor social and economic settings.

At the same time, three missionary doctors working in the Wesley Guild Hospital in Ilesha, Nigeria, were painfully aware of the limitations of traditional clinical services. Drs Andrew Pearson, David Cannon, and John Wright obtained a research grant from the West African Medical Research Council, which was matched by the Methodist Missionary Society, although the council was suspicious at first, preferring laboratory based research. They recruited David, and in 1953 he set up an extensive longitudinal study of the health and nutrition of young children in the Imesi-Ile village area, with the nurse Margaret Woodland. David wrote in his papers, "over 400 children were recruited and followed monthly for five years; this was the first of its kind in tropical Africa."

But this was not just an observational study. David's colleagues in Ilesha said that "the Morley revolution introduced and evaluated many

innovations in child care, including the under 5s clinic, in which mothers weighed and charted their own infants and kept their children's 'road to health cards.' David started the earliest trials of measles vaccine, including his own children in the cohort."

In 1961 David returned to the United Kingdom to work at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, but his heart was in child health, and in 1964 Professor Otto Wolff persuaded David to move to the Institute of Child Health, London, where he set up the tropical child health unit and ran courses for senior paediatricians and nurses from developing countries. David, and the team of visionary staff that he recruited, developed extensive collaboration with centres in the UK, Africa, and Asia and produced effective child health workers, who continue to communicate and remember when David visited them with challenging suggestions about changing their practice.

David had a "can do" attitude and a great aptitude for developing appropriate technologies that are now standard throughout the developing world. These included a robust scale for weighing infants in the community, "road to health charts" owned by parents, and a simple tape to measure the circumference of the mid-upper arm to detect severe malnutrition. The tropical child health unit at the Institute of Child Health formed the basis for the present Centre for International Health and Development (www.cihd.ich.ucl.ac.uk). He joined with colleagues at the Institute of Education to form Child to Child, the global network for activities by children to improve their own health.

In 1965 David established Teaching Aids at Low Cost (TALC), initially using a network of volunteers in the St Albans area, which has sent abroad nearly 400 000 books, 75 000 CDs, and 270 000 tapes for identifying malnutrition. The resource centre at the tropical child health unit attracted thousands of visitors from all over the world.

In 1973 David published *Paediatric Priorities in Developing Countries*. It was radical, challenging



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the concept of hospitals as "disease palaces," and not always easy reading for his hospital colleagues. It showed the impact of simple community based technologies and healthcare systems and was the basis for change in healthcare policies by WHO, Unicef, and national governments.

David received many honours, including the CBE in 1998. He was proud in a humble way of being made a chief by the Owa-Oye of Imesi-Ile in 1987. A film was made of David's life and work at the time of his festschrift on his 80th birthday, which was distributed on BBC channels. But he maintained a self effacing attitude which made him such an approachable man. It was wonderfully frustrating to try to arrange a time to meet him because he always had so many visitors from abroad. He was working on matters related to TALC until his sudden death. David leaves his wife and three children.

David's Christian faith was central to his personality and a motivating force in serving children in difficult circumstances. As one of his African paediatric colleagues said, "David was a giant for improving child health in developing countries, but, unlike most giants, he regarded the task as much more important than himself."

Andrew Tomkins

David Cornelius Morley, professor of tropical child health at the Institute of Child Health, London (b 1923; q 1947, St Thomas' Hospital, London), died 2 July 2009 from a heart attack.

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Ahmed AL-Mulaheg

Consultant in ear, nose, and throat surgery Misurata Teaching Hospital, Libya (b 1959; q Garyounis Medical School, Benghazi, Libya, 1984), died from liver cancer on 13 October 2008. Ahmed AL-Mulaheg joined the ear, nose, and throat department at Misurata Teaching Hospital as a junior doctor in 1985. After a period of training, he went to the Slovak Republic to specialise in ear, nose, and throat surgery. He returned to Misurata, his home town, and was appointed consultant and clinical director at the teaching hospital. Pleasant and respected, he gave a high level of care to his patients. He leaves a wife and two children.

Omar Zarroug Abdelkafi

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Abdulrahman Bashir AL-Sadi

Consultant paediatrician Misurata Teaching Hospital, Libya (b 1958; q Garyounis Medical School, Benghazi, Libya, 1983; Certificate of Arab Board in Paediatrics), died in a car crash on 25 October 2008. Abdulrahman Bashir AL-Sadi ("Abdu") joined the paediatric department at Misurata Teaching Hospital in 1984, quickly attaining both administrative and clinical leadership positions. He was also associate professor in paediatrics at Al-Fatah University, Tripoli, and 7th October University, Misurata. He gave consistent support to his trainees, was intellectually rigorous, and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of his subject. Energetic and holding strong views, he was also fun to be with. He leaves a wife and nine children.

Omar Zarroug Abdelkafi

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Brian Fenton Brearley



Former consultant physician Preston and Chorley Hospitals (b 1917;

q Cambridge/St Mary's Hospital, London, 1943; MD, FRCP), d 30 June 2009.

After qualifying, Brian Fenton Brearley was surgeon lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve for three years before working in Alexander Fleming's penicillin research unit at St Mary's Hospital. In 1950 he set up a diabetes clinic in Preston and Chorley with particular interest in diabetic pregnancies, running it until his retirement in 1980. He was also founder chairman of the Preston Diabetic Association. Captain of Cambridge University Hare and Hounds cross country running team, he gained his blue in the 1 mile race against Oxford in 1939, the last Cambridge winner of this event until Herb Elliott in 1961. Predeceased by his wife, Olive, in 2003, he leaves four children and six grandchildren.

John Brearley

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Alexander Laird Brown



Former senior lecturer in general practice University of Manchester (b 1931; q Durham 1954; MSc, FRCGP), died from Parkinson's disease on 29 May 2009.

After graduating, Alexander Laird Brown ("Alex") spent his national service as a medical officer at the Royal Air Force Central Flying School in the Cotswolds. He entered general practice in 1958 in Bedlington, a community forged by hardship following mining closures and "memories of worse." When he joined the department of general practice in Manchester in 1975, he studied general practitioners' perceptions of patients' social problems and continued clinical practice in Rusholme. After retirement in 1995, Alex worked as an adviser to the Independent Tribunal Service for four years. He bore his illness with great fortitude

and leaves a wife, Rosemary; two daughters; and six grandchildren.

Robbie Foy

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Dorothy Jane Oluman ffoulkes-Crabbe



Former professor of anaesthesia College of Medicine University of Lagos, Nigeria (b 1 January 1934; q Royal Free, London, 1959; FFARCS, FWACS, FMCA), d 24 December 2008. Dorothy Jane Oluman ffoulkes-Crabbe ("Mama Anaesthesia") joined the staff in Lagos as a lecturer/consultant in 1968, becoming professor of anaesthesia in 1978 and retiring in 1999.

She was committed to training anaesthetists and started a three year training programme for anaesthetic technicians. Her many contributions included being the 16th and only female president of the West African College of Surgeons (1991-3), editor in chief of the *African Journal of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care*, and founding member of the Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists, the Ghana Anaesthetic Society, and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons. She leaves a husband, Thomas Johnson, and three children.

Ronke Desalu

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Derek Gordon



Former consultant neurosurgeon Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast (b 1926; q Queen's University, Belfast, 1948; CBE, MCh, FRCSd), d 13 May 2009. Derek Gordon ran the mile for both

the university and Northern Ireland. Appointed consultant neurosurgeon in 1959, he dealt with head and spinal injuries caused by high velocity bullets and bomb blast during the Troubles. With George Blair, a dentist, he developed a method of cranioplasty fashioning titanium plates to cover each individual skull defect, and he published many articles on resuscitation of patients with severe head injuries. Derek was active in many associations, including serving on the General Medical Council (1985-94), chairing the Northern Ireland council for postgraduate education (1989-95), and being president of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons (1986-8). He leaves a wife, Mavis, and six children.

Ian C Bailey

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Klaus Guenter Heymann



Former general practitioner North Kensington, London (b 1925; q Otago 1953; BSc), d 29 April 2009. Born in East Prussia, Klaus Guenter Heymann escaped with his family to New Zealand as Hitler's influence spread. He left school at the age of 15 to become a pharmacist's apprentice. During the second world war he served in the New Zealand Royal Air Force, and he worked as a dispensing pharmacist before studying medicine. In 1955 he moved to the United Kingdom for postgraduate training and eventually set up in singlehanded general practice. In publications he postulated that conflicts between solar time and innate circadian rhythms caused depression, and, with his immense knowledge of arts and history, he contributed to "materia non medica" and lay journals. Predeceased by his wife, Gilli, in 1999, he leaves two sons.

Tony Heymann, Tim Heymann

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