

Jane Wynne

Paediatrician and international figure in child abuse work

Jane Wynne, who has died aged 64, had a conventional career in paediatrics until her marriage in 1976 led her to Leeds University as a lecturer in medicine. Here, Jane worked with Michael Buchanan, a pioneer dealing with child abuse; and in 1984 she became a community paediatrician. By 1986, she and fellow consultant Christopher Hobbs were covering all of Leeds and running courses at St James's University Hospital on the investigation and management of abuse. In 1986 and 1987 they published papers in the *Lancet* on child sexual abuse. They stressed the need for a multidisciplinary approach, with all professionals working together, and intervening only when the appropriate measures were in place. This approach might mean leaving children at risk of continuing abuse or even death.

Such an approach was not followed at Cleveland in 1987, when 96 of 121 cases of sexual abuse diagnosed by two local paediatricians were dismissed in court. A paediatrician from there had attended the course in Leeds; thus were Jane and Chris embroiled in the Cleveland affair. The consultant body at the Leeds General Infirmary was unsupportive: she was dubbed "that bloody Wynne woman" and "the notorious Mrs Wynne." The media were critical, calling Jane names like "the real murderer" and "a witch from Salem." Some members of parliament were accusatory. The Cleveland report of Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, the judge in charge of the inquiry, supported the "make-haste-slowly" approach advocated in Leeds. This and a successful libel case brought by Jane and Chris were factors in allowing child protection work to continue uninterrupted both in Leeds and nationally.

In 1988, they helped set up the Child Protection Special Interest Group, later part of the British Association of Community Child Health. They also worked with the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. Paediatrics as a whole was slow to catch up with the needs of Child Protection. Many paediatricians steered clear of child abuse work; support for those undertaking this work was patchy. One prominent Leeds paediatrician expressed the view

that Hobbs and Wynne were unreliable and successfully opposed the creation there of a designated centre.

However, their courses flourished, with paediatricians attending from Britain and abroad. In 1999, with Helga Hanks, clinical psychologist, they published *Child Abuse and Neglect, A Clinician's Handbook* and, in 2001, *Physical Signs of Child Abuse, A Colour Atlas*; both ran to second editions. The *Atlas* was particularly successful; disturbingly, sales were high in California, presumably to non-professionals. In 2003, they were contributors to the sixth edition of Forfar and Arneil's *Textbook of Pediatrics*, with the section *Child Abuse and Social Aspects of Pediatrics*. Several thousand videos based on their course were sold, produced by the media department of Leeds University.

That Jane became a national and international figure in child abuse work may have been fortuitous but her own background fitted her for leadership in this field. From her parents, John Wynne, an agricultural economist, and Margaret, a head teacher, she got her sense of justice and fair play, with strong principles of social responsibility. As Arnon Bentovim said in his obituary for the *Guardian*, Jane had sound political and ethical awareness. She also had a sharp sense of humour, thus could laugh about the man who said that his only crime was not to have locked the bathroom door: "I just happened to have an erection and the kid ran in and impaled herself." Jane once said that humour mattered less for those treating disorders such as asthma (the paediatricians who kept their hands clean).

At one of its annual general meetings in York, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health awarded Jane an honorary fellowship

to replace her ordinary one. By then, the College had long accepted the need for all paediatricians to receive training in child abuse work and child protection issues. Jane was a member of the council of the NSPCC, becoming a trustee and in 2003 an honorary trustee. In 1994 she had received an honorary doctorate from Leeds Metropolitan University for her work with abused children.



The work she did in promoting child protection and alerting people to unpleasant truths will live on

In 1990 Jane was diagnosed as having Parkinson's disease. She retired in 1999. In 2003, she needed open heart surgery, the drug cabergoline having damaged her heart valves. The loss of visual, vocal, and manual skills and of independence hit her hard. In her youth she had been a successful sportswoman. As a consultant, the heavy workload, involving paperwork most evenings, had left her with little time for other activities.

For the family, involved in her care, the encomiums have been a salutary reminder of what she had been and meant

to people. She has been called variously "the fearless voice of those who have no voice," "someone who gave support when most people were anxious and discouraging," "a truly inspirational woman who changed the face of Child Protection," "remarkable, her blend of heroism, love, and humour unique." Others have said that "Few people with the national and international standing she commanded can be so down-to-earth," "The work she did in promoting Child Protection and alerting people to unpleasant truths will live on," "She had steely purpose, public good humour when reviled, but above all a commitment to the welfare of the vulnerable."

Jane leaves a husband, Simon Currie (a retired neurologist), a daughter, and a son.

Simon Currie

Jane Margery Wynne, former consultant community paediatrician, Leeds General Infirmary (b 1944; q Leeds 1969), died from multisystem failure on 18 June 2009.

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Ruth Goodman (née Sabel)



Former community health doctor mid-Essex (b 1921; q St Andrews 1945), died from septicaemia secondary to a urinary tract infection on 26 May 2009. Ruth Sabel was about to embark on a career in gynaecology when she met and married Cyril Goodman, a solicitor. After marriage she practised medicine only part time, devoting much of her life to the upbringing of her children in Burnham-on-Crouch, where she lived in the same house for over 80 years. She was a keen sailor and much involved in the local community, organising first aid courses for St John Ambulance and acting as chairman of the local magistrates and governor of the secondary school. Predeceased by Cyril in 2006, she leaves six children and 15 grandchildren.

Sarah Goodman
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Julius Hoenig



Former professor and chairman Department of Psychiatry, Memorial University, St John's, Newfoundland, Canada (b 1913; q Glasgow 1942; FRCP), d 19 February 2009. Julius Hoenig ("John") fled Prague during his final year as Hitler invaded. After graduating, he joined the British Army Medical Corps and served in Burma. He became consultant psychiatrist at a large psychiatric hospital

near London, helping to establish the first postgraduate centre in psychiatry in India before working at Manchester University for 12 years. He was invited to develop the new medical school at St John's, and he continued clinical work and teaching in retirement in Toronto until a stroke in 1992. Inspiring and erudite, John published widely and translated many important German texts until 2004. Predeceased by his wife, Inge, in 2007, he leaves two children and two grandchildren.

**M L D Fernando
Uma Sirinivasan**

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Iain Cran McLean



General practitioner Whithorn, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire (b 1954; q Aberdeen 1986; BSc (Hons), DRCOG, MRCP), died from subarachnoid haemorrhage secondary to cerebral artery aneurysm on 21 February 2009. Iain Cran McLean studied medicine after gaining a degree in embryology and working briefly in cancer research and in new drug development for Napp Laboratories. He trained in general practice in Dumfries, but he practised first in Fraserburgh in 1990, returning to the south west of Scotland in 1997. Passionate about the quality of services that general practitioners could provide in rural and remote areas, he became assistant secretary of the local medical committee, representing it at Scottish and UK conferences. He was also on the board of the Dispensing Doctors' Association and interested in immediate care. He leaves a wife, Caroline, and two children.

Greg Purdie

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Charalampos Proukakis



Emeritus professor of medical physics Athens University Medical School (b 1934; q Athens 1957; PhD), d 26 March 2009. After graduating, Charalampos Proukakis ("Lambis") trained in general medicine with a special interest in nuclear medicine. He further specialised in haematology at Washington University, Seattle, and St Bartholomew's Medical School, London, where he was lecturer in Sir Joseph Rotblatt's department. Lambis initiated the telemedicine programme in Greece and set up the first pilot scheme linking health centres from several islands with a large general hospital in Athens. Elected dean of the medical school and vice rector of Athens University, he also held senior positions in the atomic energy affairs of Greece, being president of the Greek Atomic Energy Commission and governor of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He leaves a wife, Avgi, and three children.

Nick Bouras

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Nirmal Satsangi (née Bhatia)



Former locum general practitioner London (b 1929; q Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi, India, 1953; DA (Bombay), DA (Lond)), died on 29 May 2009 from a postoperative chest infection after a hernia operation.

Nirmal Satsangi (née Bhatia) started her career in anaesthesia in India. She came to England a year after marrying and with a baby son. Having completed the requirements for full registration, she worked as a registrar in anaesthesia in Grimsby and Worcester, later becoming locum consultant in anaesthesia in various hospitals till the late 1980s. She then worked in general practice in various surgeries in and around London till 2007. In retirement and despite having developed chronic kidney disease, she completed a diploma course in information technology. She leaves a husband, P N Satsangi, and two sons.

P N Satsangi

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Robert Miles Swinburne



Former general practitioner Rayleigh, Essex (b 1936; q The London Hospital 1959), died from prostate cancer on 6 March 2009.

Robert Miles Swinburne ("Bob") soon realised he wanted to work in general practice. After house jobs, he went straight into practice in Rayleigh, where he stayed until his retirement in 2000. A man of great energy, Bob designed and organised a new large medical centre for the practice, worked for the Benefits Agency and the limb fitting centre at Harold Wood, and did several sabbatical locums in Saudi Arabia. Always looking for a new challenge, he ran the first London Marathon, sailed across the Atlantic, skied in a 70 km race in Italy, and cycled from London to Paris. He leaves a wife, Anne; two children; and five grandchildren.

Tony Bullock

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