

Edward A Patrick

Championed the Heimlich manoeuvre, in a life embroiled in scandal

Much of Edward A Patrick's life is shrouded in mystery, his actual accomplishments clouded by his tendency to bend and invent the facts of his life. Patrick claimed that he was the co-developer of the Heimlich manoeuvre, which he referred to as the "Patrick-Heimlich manoeuvre." For nearly 30 years, his career was intimately tied to the equally puzzling career of Henry Heimlich, once dubbed the "most famous physician in the world" for the life saving manoeuvre named after him. The two men worked tirelessly together, promoting the manoeuvre and later working on a cure for AIDS—a "cure" that was denounced by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. Recently Patrick was implicated in a scandal about his medical credentials.

Born in Wheeling, West Virginia, on 7 October 1937, Patrick had a lifelong fascination with technology. As a teenager he became a licensed amateur radio operator and reportedly built a working x ray machine. He attended the Naval Academy in Annapolis from June 1956 to February 1957, when his resignation was accepted. He earned degrees in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—BS in 1960 and MS in 1962. He earned a PhD in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1966 and in 1974 he received his MD from Indiana University.

Long on hype

Patrick's hype extended to his credentials as an emergency physician. In 2005 the journalist Thomas Francis published an article that undermined Patrick's claim that he served a year long residency under Henry Heimlich at the Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati from 1975 to 1976. In the article, entitled "Playing doctor," Francis cited documents that show that it was virtually impossible for Patrick to have fulfilled his residency requirements. Part

of the evidence against him was a statement by the hospital's chief resident of surgery, who attested that Patrick was never in the residency programme.

Patrick filed a libel suit against Francis, but the suit was dismissed and the decision was upheld by a federal appellate court. The judge found that there were "many inconsistencies in Dr Patrick's

representations of virtually all aspects of his medical training."

The source of the reporter's information proved as newsworthy as the scandal itself: Heimlich's son, Peter, gave documents to Francis that undermined not only Patrick's claims and credentials but also important claims made by his world famous father. The younger Heimlich recalls first seeing Patrick visiting his father in the mid-1970s. Patrick's unusual appearance made the visits memorable. Says Heimlich, "He had this big Elvis [Presley] pompadour, and he wore a green polyester suit with high heeled boots."

In 1976, two years after the manoeuvre was first publicised, the American Heart Association issued guidelines to recommend the manoeuvre for choking if blows to the back had failed. This didn't satisfy either Patrick or Heimlich. They denounced back blows as "deadly" and argued that only the Heimlich manoeuvre should be performed for choking. Not long after the manoeuvre was introduced, the pair began to promote it for near drowning. But the medical community was not convinced on either score.

In 1981 use of the manoeuvre for drowning was given a boost when Patrick published a report that claimed that he had saved the life of a 2 year old girl in Lima, Ohio, who had been submerged in a lake for 20 minutes. Patrick claimed that he resuscitated the girl by using the Heimlich manoeuvre after lengthy cardiopulmonary resuscitation failed. "The Lima case" as it became known, became a centrepiece of the men's promotion of the manoeuvre for near drowning.

Patrick and Heimlich waged an aggressive campaign to expand the use of the Heimlich manoeuvre, attacking experts who opposed their view. Still, medical experts continued to express doubts about the pair's claims. That all changed in 1985 when C Everett Koop, then surgeon general of the United States, ended the impasse by endorsing the manoeuvre as best treatment for choking. Experts continued to challenge use of

the manoeuvre in cases of drowning, and in 2000 the American Heart Association dropped it from guidelines on drowning. In 2004 the reporter Francis published damning information about the oft cited Lima case. The girl, it turned out, remained comatose and died several months after being pulled from the lake. Reporters were unable to obtain proof that Patrick even worked at the hospital in Lima at the time of the girl's admission to hospital.

After another review of the scientific evidence in 2006, the American Red Cross quietly changed its guidelines for choking, recommending the manoeuvre only when five blows to the back had failed. They also dropped Heimlich's name from the manoeuvre, now calling it "abdominal thrusts."



Malaria as "cure"

Perhaps the most bizarre chapter of the Patrick-Heimlich alliance came when Heimlich became convinced that he could cure cancer, Lyme disease, and AIDS by infecting patients with malaria, known as "malariotherapy." When the US Food and Drug Administration refused to allow the research to be conducted in the United States, the men moved the study to China, Ethiopia, and Gabon. The World Health Organization denounced the study as an example of "clearly unscrupulous and opportune research."

He leaves three former wives, Patricia Roy, Susan Soudrette, and Joy Lake Patrick, and four children from his first marriage (one predeceased him) and two from his third.

Jeanne Lenzer

Edward A Patrick, lifelong promoter of the Heimlich manoeuvre (b 1937; q 1974 Indiana University), died 23 December 2009 from complications from a stroke.

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2010;340:c1314

Edmund Clegg Atkinson



Former general practitioner Sheffield (b 1911; q St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 1935), d 29 July 2009. Soon after qualification, Edmund Clegg Atkinson ("Teddy") became "doc" with an amateur crew on the *Cap Pillar*, a barquentine without radio or motor, circumnavigating the world during 1936-8. Back in England, he trained in surgery, in 1939 joining a practice in St Ives, Cornwall, where he continued in part time surgery. He remained in Cornwall at the outbreak of war as the most experienced surgeon west of Truro. In 1948 he moved to Sheffield, where he practised until the age of 72. He became expert on mediaeval churches and stained glass and received a degree in archaeology in his 80s. Predeceased by his wife, Margaret, and his eldest son, he leaves two sons and seven grandchildren.

Richard Edmund Atkinson
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2010;340:c1288

Margaret Billingham

Professor emerita of pathology Stanford University Medical School, California (b 1930; q Royal Free Hospital, London, 1954; FRCPath, FCAP, FACC), d 15 July 2009. Margaret Billingham moved with her husband and children to the San Francisco Bay area in 1965, where she trained in cardiopulmonary medicine and then pathology at Stanford. Rising steadily through the ranks, she developed with colleagues the now widely used standardised histological scale for grading the severity of cardiac rejection that is often attributed to her by name. She was recognised internationally and nationally by many awards for her research and teaching, and published and reviewed widely. She was the only histopathologist to be president of the International Society of Heart Transplantation. She leaves a husband, John; two sons; and four grandchildren.

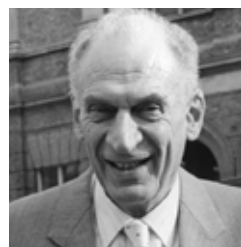
Susan Stewart, Margaret Burke, John Billingham

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2010;340:c1276

Sidney Crown

Former consultant psychiatrist Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel (b 1924; q Middlesex Hospital, London, 1961; PhD, FRCP, FRCPsych), died from bronchopneumonia on 12 September 2009.

Sidney Crown completed his doctorate at the Institute of Psychiatry and the Maudsley Hospital before studying medicine at the age of 30 (having gaining the required physics O level at evening classes). He co-developed the Crown-Crisp experiential index, a personality inventory widely cited and still used today, and promoted psychotherapeutic services for his disadvantaged patients.



He edited the *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, and then joined the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, later enjoying being a forthright "media shrink." After retiring, Sidney took up marathon running and was a supporter of the arts. He leaves a wife, June; three children; and six grandchildren.

Anna Crown
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2010;340:c1273

John Earl Evans

Former general practitioner Shrewsbury (b 1929; q Birmingham 1952), died from a cerebral tumour on 23 December 2009. After house officer posts in Stafford, John Earl Evans joined the Royal Army Medical Corps for national service in Malaya. He then worked in obstetrics and gynaecology at Nottingham City Hospital and was a trainee in Penkridge, Staffordshire before joining a general practice in West Bromwich in 1957. In 1968 he became a partner in Shrewsbury, his particular interests being midwifery and mental health. John retired from practice in 1992 but continued to work for the Department

for Work and Pensions as medical adviser in the tribunal service, and as an approved medical officer in mental health until 2002. He leaves a wife, Jean; three children; and five grandchildren.

David Whittingham
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2010;340:c1291

Richard Murray Hester



Psychiatrist in private practice; staff psychiatrist Royal Perth Hospital, Western Australia (b 1939; q Western Australia 1964; DPM, MRCPsych, FRANZCP), died from metastatic prostate cancer on 18 November 2009.

Richard Murray Hester specialised in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital, London, where he met his wife, Jane. He had a lifelong interest in psychotherapy, and as staff psychiatrist at Royal Perth Hospital instigated a day hospital service for the treatment of personality disorders. He later moved into private practice with a team of clinical psychologists and psychotherapists. Interested in Gestalt therapy, he and his wife welcomed the US leaders of Gestalt as guests to their home. Richard also had a serious interest in Sufism, and his reading interests were universal. He leaves Jane and two children.

Krishna Somers
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2010;340:c1275

Sharif Anwar Hussain

Former consultant physician Bassetlaw District General Hospital, Worksop, Nottinghamshire (b 1938; q Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1962), d 21 December 2009. Sharif Anwar Hussain ("Anwar") came to the United Kingdom in 1965 as a state scholar for higher training. After working in several London hospitals, he became consultant physician to the department of geriatrics in Bassetlaw, remaining there for nearly 20 years until his retirement in 1995. Well respected regionally and nationally



for setting up the department for the elderly at Bassetlaw, Anwar also established the day hospital and the district Parkinson's service. He was postgraduate clinical tutor for many years, and received clinical excellence awards. Although he took early retirement owing to ill health, Anwar remained active until a year before he died. He leaves a wife, Fatima; two children; and one grandchild.

Mahen Muthiah
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2010;340:c1289

Michael Albert Voyce

Former consultant paediatrician Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro (b 1935; q Bristol 1959; MD, FRCP), died from ruptured cerebral aneurysm on 4 December 2009.

Initially an academic in the Department of Child Health in Bristol, Michael Albert Voyce followed the call to clinical medicine and was appointed one of the country's youngest consultant paediatricians at the time in Truro. Working singlehandedly for many years, he was instrumental in developing paediatric services for the county, and, with his particular interest in mental and physical disability, masterminded the paediatric assessment centre. Latterly he became active in management and was the trust's medical director. His passion was house renovation: he almost entirely rebuilt his first family home unaided. He leaves his second wife, four children from his first marriage, and two children from his second.

Anne Prendergast (née Voyce)
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2010;340:c1316

MISPLACED PHOTOGRAPH
An error during production resulted in the photograph in the obituary for Prakash Dayanand Shrivastava (*BMJ* 2010;340:c1170) being published in the obituary for Sarosh Dhunjishaw Vakil (*BMJ* 2010;340:c1173) in last week's print issue, 6 March (p 537). We apologise for any distress caused to the families and friends.
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2010;340:c1313