

Qiu Fazu

Pioneering transplant surgeon in China who was also honoured by Germany

One of the few doctors bridging successfully the wide gap between Western and Eastern medicine throughout his long life of 94 years, Qiu Fazu was the first Asian to receive the highest German honour, the Federal Cross of Merit, in 1985. He is remembered in China and Germany as much for his personal courage as his medical achievements. And he is one of few people to have endured and resisted two terror regimes: Nazi Germany and the Cultural Revolution in China.

Qiu Fazu was born in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China, in December 1914. He decided to study medicine because his mother had died after mistreatment of appendicitis. After his finals at the German School of Medicine in Shanghai, he went to Munich with the help of a Humboldt scholarship, graduating from the medical faculty and receiving a German MD in 1939. Despite the German racism of the time, Chinese people were not badly treated, Qiu said when later remembering his time in Germany.

During the second world war, he worked as a surgeon in a Munich hospital trying to rescue many victims of the bombing raids. He was later sent to a hospital in Bad Tölz, a spa town 50 km south of Munich, where, in 1945, he encountered 40 prisoners from Dachau concentration camp. They were members of a huge group of prisoners forced by the SS to leave the camp and go south as US troops advanced.

About 60 years later, Qiu remembered clearly that he was getting ready to operate when a nurse shouted that there were many prisoners from a concentration camp lying outside. He ran out of his room with his operation cap on, as he had already learnt what happened in the camp. More than 40 ragged prisoners were squatting down on the ground in the corner of a street. Sick and weak, they could not move any further. The SS troops standing there shouted at them and ordered them to stand up.

"I was shocked that they were not able to move any further," Qiu recalled. He sum-



moned up his courage and told the troops, "These prisoners have typhoid fever. Let me take them away." The prisoners were released, and the doctors led them to the basement, saving their lives with careful nursing.

One of the German nurse students supporting him was Loni, who became his wife soon after the war was over. In 1946 she accompanied her husband, who was homesick for China, first to Shanghai and later to Wuhan. The couple remained devoted to each other and had three children.

Back in China, Qiu introduced modern surgical techniques, and with his experience from Germany helped in setting up medical schools. Promoting the development of abdominal and general surgery, he is considered a surgical pioneer and the main founder of organ transplantation surgery in China. In the 1970s he began the earliest research programme on liver transplantation—from experimental study to clinical treatment—founding the first institute of organ transplantation in China.

He is also well known for his achievements

as a teacher. He wrote *Surgery*, a nationwide standard textbook for Chinese medical students. In 1948 he founded and was the chief editor of the first popular science journal, *Popular Medicine*.

In 1978 he became deputy president of Wuhan Medical Institute and director of the Organ Transplantation Research Institute. In 1981 he was appointed president of Wuhan Medical Institute. He never lost contact with his second home country and helped hundreds of German medical students to visit and benefit from the experience of training in Wuhan's hospitals. His support of the exchange between Tongji and Heidelberg University earned him an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University in 1982.

However, life in China was very difficult at times, especially in the 1960s, when the Cultural Revolution tried to eradicate privileges and class differences. Qiu had to clean toilets—"and this was the only time they were really clean," he used to joke. The family had to grow its own food, and he was sent into faraway rural areas to provide medical care for peasants.

When life and the political climate improved again, the couple continued their modest life, with Qiu still practising and teaching when needed.

He leaves his wife, Loni, and three children.

Annette Tuffs

Professor Qiu Fazu, director, Organ Transplantation Research Institute, and president, Wuhan Medical Institute, Wuhan, China (b 1914; q Munich 1939), d 14 June 2008.

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a812

OBITUARIES continue on p 181

ADVICE

We will be pleased to receive obituary notices of around 250 words. In most cases we will be able to publish only about 100 words in the printed journal, but we can run a fuller version on our website. We will take responsibility for shortening. We do not send proofs. Please give a contact telephone number and, where possible, supply the obituary by email to obituaries@bmj.com

Joseph Michel Gaston Assing

Former otorhinolaryngologist Northampton, Coventry, and Sheffield (b 1921; q Bordeaux), died from bronchopneumonia on 23 May 2008. Joseph Michel Gaston Assing was born in France and was in the French Resistance during the second world war. After qualification, he moved to Chicago, where he worked in otorhinolaryngology and general medicine. He then moved to England and did otorhinolaryngology and general medicine in Northampton, Coventry, and Sheffield. He became diabetic but managed it in a disciplined way. Early in December 2006 he was diagnosed as having motor neurone disease. He leaves a wife, Hedwig.

Hedwig Assing

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a767

Reginald Frederick Bolam



Former locum consultant general surgeon England and Wales (b 1924; q University College Hospital, London, 1952; FRCS), died from cerebrovascular disease and epilepsy on 28 July 2007.

Reginald Frederick Bolam ("Reg") was determined to become a surgeon, despite his right elbow becoming fixed after treatment for an early childhood injury. After wartime service in the Fleet Air Arm in Malta and Gibraltar, he studied medicine under a government scheme for returning service personnel whose studies had been interrupted by the war. During the 1960s and '70s Reg worked in the Middle East, and on his return to the UK he was a locum consultant surgeon covering the absence of one group of colleagues throughout England and Wales. He leaves his third wife, Susan; three children; and five grandchildren.

Susan Bolam

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a668

Peter John Lennox Holt



Former consultant rheumatologist Manchester Royal Infirmary (b 1932; q Manchester 1957; DCH, FRCP, FRCPC), d 26 February 2008.

After qualifying, Peter John Lennox Holt ("Lennox") worked in Cambridge and Birmingham. In 1966 he was senior lecturer at Hammersmith Hospital, joining the renowned academic department at Manchester Royal Infirmary in 1973. He worked on collagen arthritis and ANCA-associated vasculitis disease, eventually heading the department. As reader, he was particularly proud of developing the department's paediatric specialty and training future rheumatologists. He also wrote more than 150 papers and served on numerous academic committees and editorial boards. After retirement he delivered occasional lectures and undertook medicolegal work. Predeceased by his wife, Mary, in 1981, he leaves four children and five grandchildren.

Ruth Holt, Tom Warnes Robert Bernstein

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a751

Derek Conrad James



Former consultant radiologist Leicester Royal Infirmary (b 1927; q St Bartholomew's Hospital 1950; FFR, DLO, DMRD), d 21 January 2008. After qualification, Derek Conrad James was recruited to the Royal Army Medical Corps and stationed in Hong Kong. On his return he obtained a post in Charing Cross

Hospital in radiology, moving to Leicester Royal Infirmary in 1960. He officially retired in 1997, only to be recruited some months later as a locum to various peripheral hospitals without the burden of administrative interference. His ability to get through all the films, procedures, and reports was legendary, and he was kind and helpful to his colleagues, especially junior staff. Predeceased by his wife in 1995, he leaves four children and six grandchildren.

Matt James, Bob Graham

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a768

Margery Lila Moncrieff (née Allen)



Former general practitioner Lewisham, London (b 1927; q Royal Free 1951), died from a cerebrovascular accident on 11 January 2008.

After qualifying and six months of obstetrics and gynaecology, Margery Lila Moncrieff (née Allen) moved with her husband, Gavin, to Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), where they initially worked for a mining company, Margery as a mine doctor. On returning to the United Kingdom in 1961, Margery worked part time in family planning and the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, and was school doctor for Mary Datchelor School, Camberwell. She worked full time in general practice from 1972 to her retirement in 1985, and as a clinical assistant in geriatrics at Hither Green Hospital. Predeceased by Gavin in 1998, she leaves four children and 12 grandchildren.

Clare Markham

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a750

Harold Holmwood Reynard

Former consultant surgeon Nottingham General Hospital and Newark Hospital (b 1916; q King's College Hospital, London, 1940; MS, FRCS), d 3 April 2008.

The first from his school to study medicine, Harold Holmwood Reynard on qualification worked as a casualty officer throughout the Blitz and served as a surgeon lieutenant in the navy. He was consultant surgeon in Newark and Nottingham from 1955 to 1981 and was instrumental in maintaining a comprehensive general surgical service while teaching at the new Nottingham medical school. He was also a "master of Meccano," winning prizes at national exhibitions, and an active lay reader in his local Anglican church for over 40 years. Predeceased by his wife of 66 years, Phyllis, he leaves three children.

P W Wenham

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a689

Maxwell Stanley Sewell



Former general practitioner Crouch End, London (b 1929; q Leeds 1952), died from lung cancer on 2 February 2008.

Maxwell Sewell obtained a full scholarship to study medicine. His house jobs were in Altrincham General Hospital and as house physician in charge of a dermatology ward at Newsham General Hospital, Liverpool. He did two years of national service as a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Cyprus and Egypt, where he specialised in venereology and dermatology, dealing with several cases of leprosy. Although he loved dermatology, he decided on general practice, eventually taking over a practice in Crouch End that had been a doctor's surgery since the 1800s. He ran the practice singlehandedly until the early 1980s, retiring in 1999. He leaves a wife, Ruby; three children; and three grandchildren.

Helen Sewell

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a758