

Peter Beales

Fighter of malaria and other tropical diseases

Peter Beales, expert in tropical medicine (b 1935; q University of Liverpool 1968; DTM&H, MD, FFPH), died from acute myeloid leukaemia on 3 January 2013.

In 1962, when Peter Beales began studying medicine at the University of Liverpool, he was not like most other students. He was 27 years old and married with a baby son. He was also more worldly than other students, having previously spent several years travelling to exotic locations in Asia as a staff member of the World Health Organization. "He described himself as the 'Old Man' of the class of 1968," says Barry Bywater, who as a member of the same class became close friends with Beales.

While working for WHO in the late 1950s and early 1960s, Beales had become fascinated with tropical medicine. He cared deeply about people in developing countries and wanted to help them. But he realised that, before he could fully participate in the global fight against malaria and other tropical diseases, he would need to be armed with a medical degree. So he returned to London and worked in a hardware shop until he was accepted for medical studies in Liverpool.

Bywater notes that, although it was the beginning of the "Swinging Sixties," with a little known band named the Beatles also in Liverpool, Beales was fully focused on medicine. "Peter saw little of the Liverpool pop scene unless it took place in a hospital, lecture theatre, or at a medical ball," Bywater says.

After earning his medical degree in 1968, Beales worked with tropical medicine pioneer Brian Maegraith, dean of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. In 1969, Beales was awarded his diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene. He was now ready to rejoin the battle against tropical diseases.

"Dr Beales devoted his life to improving the health of people in developing countries," says Francisco Rio, a colleague of Beales's who is now a team leader in WHO's Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Peter Frederick Beales was born on 16 June 1935 in southeast London. He was a studious boy, earning the nickname "Prof." But when he was 16 years old he left school to work as a laboratory assistant at Guy's Hospital, giving him his first exposure to medical research. In 1956, after two years' service in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he joined WHO as a medical entomologist.



Beales "went places where others would not have gone because they would put their own safety first"

He was dispatched to a malaria team in Afghanistan. Travelling sometimes by donkey or horseback, he was among the first Westerners in the remote valleys of the Hindu Kush mountain range. The team was subsequently dispatched to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to work on malaria, with Beales driving a dangerous route from Afghanistan through Pakistan and India. The team returned to Afghanistan and then on to North Borneo, Burma, Thailand, and Cambodia, where he discovered a new species of *Anopheles* mosquito.

In 1959 in Thailand, Beales met and then fell in love with Sriutra "Noy" Ketbhan. They married in 1960 at the British Embassy in Bangkok. When Beales gave WHO notice that he was resigning to study medicine, his team leader, S Avery Jones, wrote him a letter praising him as always remaining "unperturbed, courteous, and hard working" and able "to make friends with all nationalities." Jones added: "I am very sorry that you are going and hope that when you have your qualifications you will consider rejoining the World Health Organization."

After qualifying, Beales was appointed assistant professor in tropical medicine and microbiology at the University of Hawaii in 1970. The same year he was also named director of public health and filariasis control in American Samoa, continuing the filariasis work originally started by John F Kessel. In 1972 he was named by the US Department of the Interior as director of medical services for American Samoa, where in early 1974 he was honoured for his assistance to survivors and relatives of the deadly jetliner crash landing of Pan Am Flight 806.

In late 1974, he rejoined WHO and over the next decades served around the world and at headquarters in Geneva. He was involved in numerous scientific disciplines, including medical research technology, medical entomology, medicine and surgery, tropical medicine, public health, medical administration, and programme planning.

His first posting was as WHO's senior malaria adviser to the Thai government. In 1980 he was named chief of programming and training in WHO's malaria action programme and in 1990 became chief of training for the control of tropical diseases. He was also co-founder and coordinator of WHO's health academy.

"He went places where others would not have gone because they would put their own safety first," says Kazem Behbehani, a former WHO colleague who is now director general of Dasman Diabetes Institute, Kuwait, adding that Beales radiated "kindness from deep within him."

Author of more than 67 publications, Beales retired in 1996 but continued to be active, including working for WHO as a consultant and as a visiting professor at Kuwait University.

"He was a man of sound scientific knowledge and a sympathetic and resourceful colleague," says Rio. "His understanding of tropical medicine was wide ranging, as was his passion for transferring knowledge to others. Many scientists and public health decision-makers worldwide at work today owe him a great deal."

In addition to his wife, Beales leaves a son, a daughter, and four granddaughters.

Ned Stafford, freelance journalist, Hamburg
ns@europen.de

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f2164

We welcome obituaries for doctors within the first year of their death. Please send as a Word file to obituaries@bmj.com. We assume that material is sent exclusively to us, and we publish the full versions we receive on bmj.com. We produce the short obituaries in the print issue from these full versions. They are a maximum of 150 words, including biographical details: the last position held, date of birth, place and year of qualification, postgraduate qualifications if applicable, and date and cause of death. We publish pictures, which can be sent electronically or as photographs, when we can. We generally commission the full page obituaries for the print *BMJ* from professional writers: these are usually about doctors and are published no more than three months after death.

Shahid Zamiruddin Ahmed



Former general practitioner (b 1939; q Dow Medical University, Pakistan, 1967), died from aspiration pneumonia on 5 February 2013.

Shahid Zamiruddin Ahmed (né Niaz) was born in India and did a degree in biochemistry before embarking on a career in medicine. After graduating he worked as chief medical officer on merchant navy ships before moving to England in 1969. Shahid worked in London before entering a GP partnership in Manchester. Family life was central to him, and he was proud to pass his family values on to his children. He leaves his wife of 46 years, four children, and four grandchildren.

S Niaz, O Niaz, F Niaz, Q Niaz

Cite this as: BMJ 2013;346:f1773

Charles John Henry Bland



Radiologist Royal Surrey County Hospital (b 1954; q Cambridge 1979; MA Cantab, FRCR), drowned while on a family holiday in Sri Lanka on 27 December 2012.

After house jobs at Bart's and Ipswich, Charles John Henry Bland trained in radiology on the St George's Hospital training scheme in London and was appointed a consultant in Guildford in 1988. Early on he showed his skill in intervention, especially in uroradiology. In recent years his main interests were gastrointestinal radiology and uroradiology, and he was a popular and wise contributor at multidisciplinary team meetings. For all his clinical skills, he will be remembered most for his charm; his sense of humour; and his kindness to patients, colleagues, and all members

of staff. Charles leaves his wife, Mardie, and a daughter.

Terry Bloomberg

Cite this as: BMJ 2013;346:f1768

Jeremy Davies



Consultant anaesthetist East Sussex Healthcare (b 1961; q St Mary's Hospital, London, 1993; FRCA), died from metastatic bowel cancer on 30 November 2012.

Jeremy Davies read English language and literature at St Peter's College, Oxford, before studying medicine at St Mary's Hospital, followed by a seven year training programme in anaesthesia. In 2002 he took up a post as consultant anaesthetist in Eastbourne, providing the lead role in obstetric anaesthetic services. He engrossed himself in the development of the obstetric anaesthesia service, achieving an exceptionally high standard by applying his reputable commitment and enthusiasm. He maintained an active interest in literature, history, and Southampton Football Club. He leaves his wife and two sons.

Rob McGregor, Nicky Roberts-Davies

Cite this as: BMJ 2013;346:f1765

Mary Nicol Finlay

Former general practitioner and clinical medical officer in family planning Uxbridge (b 1920; q Edinburgh 1944), died from cardiac failure on 8 January 2013.

Mary Nicol Finlay ("Ray") was one of the first doctors to prescribe penicillin to the public in 1946. The "penicillin teapot"—a gift from a patient whose life had been saved



by her prescribing of the drug on its first day of availability—remained a treasured possession, and she wrote about it in the *BMJ* (doi:10.1136/bmj.333.7557.33-a). In 1947 she married and moved to Uxbridge. She became a part time clinical officer at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and later ran family planning clinics in Uxbridge. Having been her husband's carer, she continued to live independently, playing Scott Joplin on the piano, mastering her iPad, and enjoying testing medical students on her signs of mitral incompetence. She leaves three children, two grandchildren, and two great grandsons.

Andrew Finlay, Elspeth Edwards

Cite this as: BMJ 2013;346:f1766

William C M Lawrence



Former general practitioner and community physician (b 1925; q Aberdeen 1953; DPH), died from cardiac failure on 19 June 2012.

William C M Lawrence ("Bill") did national service in the Royal Air Force and just missed getting his wings because the war ended. He worked as a GP in Buckie for 12 years before taking up a post in public health in Stirling, where he remained until retirement. Bill played rugby for the university and later enjoyed golf and sailing, as well as regular trips to his cottage at Findhorn. After retiring he and his wife, Sheila, travelled extensively. He leaves Sheila, two sons, and two grandchildren.

Sheila Lawrence, Douglas Lawrence

Cite this as: BMJ 2013;346:f1764

Ruth Porter

Physician and psychotherapist (b 1925; q Edinburgh 1948; DCH, MRCP, FRCPsych), d 28 July 2012.

Having undergone a Freudian, then a Kleinian, psychoanalysis, Ruth Porter became president of the Royal Society of Medicine's section of psychiatry

in 1984 and entered psychotherapy training at the age of 60. Her introduction to work with older adults was at the Hammersmith Hospital and she continued this at St Charles Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital, the Westminster Pastoral Foundation, in general practice, and with individual patients from home. Her legacy has been her dynamic output, her success in challenging cynicism about psychological work with older people, instilling hope in professionals in a world where older adults continue to be mistreated, and her close, generous personal relationships with younger colleagues whom she inspired. She retired in 1997. She leaves a nephew and niece, their families, and many friends.

Jane Garner, Mark Ardern

Cite this as: BMJ 2013;346:f1772

John Sutton Pippard

Former consultant psychiatrist Claybury Hospital, Essex (b 1919; q Cambridge and the London Hospital 1942; MA, MD, FRCP, FRCPsych), died from pneumonia after a fall at home on 21 December 2012.



John Sutton Pippard conducted his MD research (for which he was awarded the Copeman medal by Corpus Christi College, Cambridge) into the effects of leucotomy, but his approach was eclectic and after his appointment to Claybury in 1955 he played a leading part in transforming a traditional mental hospital into a therapeutic community. After retiring he surveyed the use of electroconvulsive shock treatment in the UK for the Royal College of Psychiatrists. His report in 1981 showed that practice was inadequate in many places and provided an impetus for change that he documented in a further audit in 1991. Predeceased by his wife, Kathleen, in 2005, he leaves four children and nine grandchildren.

Martin Pippard

Cite this as: BMJ 2013;346:f1770