

John Hayward

Noted breast cancer surgeon and researcher and founder of the British Breast Group

John Langford Hayward, consultant surgeon (b 1923; q 1947 University of London), died from dementia on 24 February 2013.

John Hayward became a breast cancer surgeon at a time when the most common treatment for the disease was mastectomy. This operation came at a high physical and psychological price for patients, and Hayward began to think that such radical treatment was, for many women, unnecessary. With Sir Hedley Atkins, a senior surgical colleague at Guy's Hospital in London, he ran the first trial to compare mastectomy with breast conserving surgery.

Atkins, after whom the cancer unit is named at Guy's, introduced the randomised control trial to medicine in the UK, and Hayward was a keen proponent of it. Together they showed that not all patients needed a mastectomy and that breast conserving surgery would suit some women.

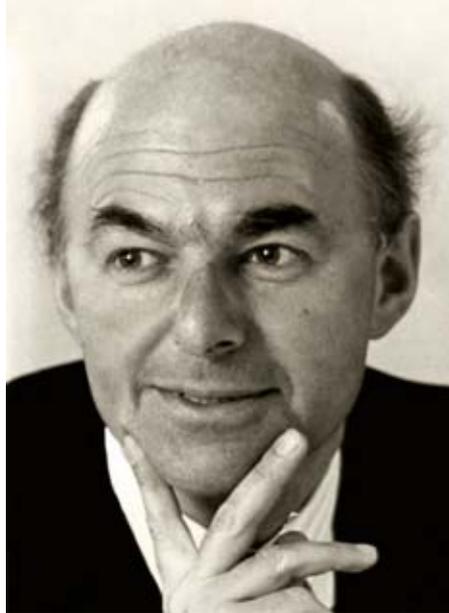
Hayward's first research was on hormones, which had long been known to have a role in the development of cancer, and, at the time of his first research in the 1950s, women often faced removal of their adrenal and pituitary glands. This treatment was not successful for all women, and Hayward began to study which patients would benefit and which would not.

At a conference in 1957 he met Richard Bulbrook (known as Mick), a biochemist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Hayward took blood and urine samples from patients for Bulbrook to analyse, and they came up with a discriminant function test to determine which patients should undergo removal of the pituitary and adrenal glands.

According to Robert Rubens, professor of clinical oncology, who worked with Hayward at Guy's, the two formed a most successful partnership and would eventually go on to found the British Breast Group, to promote research into breast disease. Colleagues described the pair as great fun and very sociable.

Hayward grew up in Essex, and as a boy he dreamed of becoming an actor until his architect father told him to choose a more sensible career. Hayward's wife, Jill, believes that he was finally able to give vent to his talent for performance in the lecture theatre.

He studied medicine at the University of London and at the end of the second world



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war he was one of a group of medical students who travelled to the German concentration camp Belsen, shortly after it was liberated, to carry out relief work. What he witnessed there was so shocking that he rarely spoke about it. He graduated in 1947 and, after serving in the Royal Air Force and a brief stint at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham, he was appointed a surgical assistant at Guy's Hospital in 1953 and remained there for the rest of his career.

One of his most notable achievements was the Guernsey study, an extension of his work on steroid hormones with Richard Bulbrook. The pair wanted to look at a large group of women over time and chose Guernsey as it had a stable and well defined population, with the general practitioners and surgeons on the island keen to collaborate. Ian Fentiman, professor of surgical oncology at Guy's and one of the young researchers on the study, says that the Guernsey study was unique in its scale. Its major finding was that exposure to high levels of oestrogen determined women's likelihood of developing breast cancer. Today women in the study are still being followed up.

“The object of the study was to look at risk factors for development of breast cancer. Hayward was concerned with trying to identify women who would respond to treatment and also with finding those who were at increased risk,” says Fentiman.

In the early 1960s a breast cancer unit was established at New Cross Hospital, part of Guy's, and Hayward became its director. Then the Imperial Cancer Research Fund increased its financial contribution to Guy's and set up the breast cancer unit, which combined laboratory and clinical research. Hayward became its first director and from there carried out much international work, including the Anglo-Japanese and Anglo-Egyptian breast cancer studies, which looked at the differences in the incidence and pathology of the disease between the countries.

Hayward also promoted multidisciplinary working and appointed a pathologist to the unit, Rosemary Millis, as well as Rubens as clinical oncologist. Millis says that at the time multidisciplinary teams were unusual: “He foresaw the multidisciplinary approach that was to become standard practice. Up until his time most patients with breast cancer were treated by general surgeons, and few were specialists. He was one of the first to be entirely focused on looking at breast diseases and dedicated to finding the best form of treatment.”

Hayward—described as affable, gregarious, and fun—loved to travel, and his knowledge and expertise were recognised internationally. He had strong links with colleagues all over the world and often hosted international students and researchers. In the 1980s he was asked by Italian breast cancer expert Umberto Veronesi to go to Milan to undertake a mastectomy that would be filmed and then used as a training video. Murid Chaudary, the surgical assistant who accompanied him, believes that hundreds of surgeons must have watched Hayward's surgical skills.

When Hayward retired he bought a pub near his home in East Sussex, serving behind the bar one day a week. He had a stroke and then developed dementia, which gradually overtook him in the last 10 years of his life. He leaves his wife, Jill, and two sons.

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Brian Beach



Former general practitioner Herefordshire (b 1942; q Birmingham 1965; MRCP), died from glioblastoma on 21 May 2012.

After house jobs in Birmingham, Brian Beach went to Rhodesia as a paediatric registrar. He then worked in Hereford, where he met his wife, also a doctor, and gained the MRCP before spending two years in South Africa. The couple returned to the UK to take up a partnership in west Herefordshire. Brian loved rural general practice, eschewed committees of all sorts, and, inspired by his time at St Christopher's Hospice with Cicely Saunders, became committed to providing a high standard of domiciliary palliative care. He retired in 2002 and did some locums in the north of Scotland. His illness started after nearly 10 years of active retirement. He leaves his wife, Helen; a son; two daughters; and eight grandchildren.

Helen Beach, Hilary Sindall, Oliver Penney

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Christopher Tibbits Brown



Former general practitioner (b 1920; q Bristol University 1951), died from bowel perforation on 29 January 2013.

Christopher Tibbits Brown interrupted his medical studies to join the Royal Air Force as a pilot in 1940. He married June Butler, a fellow medical student, and became a general practitioner in Wareham, where his practice included delivering about 50 babies a year. He spent 1962 as medical officer with the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS, now British Antarctic Survey) at

Halley Bay, where he was also dentist, vet, and father figure. After retirement, he and June sailed their yacht, *Toccata*, with their longest voyages to the Baltic and across the Bay of Biscay. In 1985 they took the Trans-Siberian Railway to Mongolia and China. He leaves June, four children, 15 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Robert Bernstein

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Michael John Gilbert



Former general practitioner (b 1936; q Birmingham 1959; DRCOG, AFOM), died from acute myeloid leukaemia on 22 May 2012.

Michael John Gilbert ("Mike") worked in general practice in Canada for seven years, followed by two years on St Vincent in the Grenadines. He spent many happy hours sailing around the island and fishing. In 1971 he joined Shell and went to Nigeria, Oman, and Brunei. On returning to the UK he took on special responsibility for the Shell tanker fleet and later took up a consultancy in occupational health at St Thomas' Hospital. His last post was chief medical adviser for British Gas worldwide, which enabled him to continue with his travels. Returning to England meant he could pursue his love of cars and racing. Mike leaves his wife, Anita; five children; and five grandchildren.

Anita Gilbert

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Louise Olwen Neville

Consultant medical microbiologist Epsom and St Helier Hospitals (b 1955; q New Hall, Cambridge/University of London 1979; MA, MRCP, FRCPath), died from metastatic uterine cancer on 22 March 2013.

Louise Olwen Neville undertook specialist training in medical microbiology at the Royal Free Hospital. She was that rare breed of



microbiologist who achieved both the MRCP and FRCPath. Her advice was valued by clinicians at the Homerton Hospital (1993-2001), Kingston Hospital (2001-04), and, latterly, Epsom and St Helier Hospitals, especially with respect to the management of hospital acquired infections. Louise will be remembered by her many friends for her great enthusiasm for life; her eclectic interests in the arts, running, and rowing; and her enormous bravery in the face of her terminal illness. She leaves her mother, a son, and a daughter.

Shelley Heard, Jim Stephenson

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Kenneth Charles Parsons



Former general practitioner (b 1921; q Cardiff 1951), d 14 February 2013.

On his second day at medical school, Kenneth Charles Parsons ("Ken") and his fellow new students were welcomed by Sally Chard, vice chair of the medical students' club, and Ken later plucked up the courage to ask her out. They were married in 1950. The couple worked in general practice in the Cotswolds until Ken became a partner in a practice in Mitcheldean in 1955. He retired in 1984 and enjoyed gardening, sailing, and travelling with Sally for 20 years until she became disabled with metastatic breast cancer. He cared for her throughout her illness. Ken developed invasive bladder cancer at the age of 90, which was successfully treated with radiotherapy. Predeceased by Sally in 2008, he leaves a daughter, a son, and six grandchildren.

Celia Ingham Clark

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Kenneth William Scott

Former consultant dermatologist Craigavon Area Hospital (b 1934; q Belfast 1958; FRCPI), d 17 January 2013.

After qualifying, Kenneth William Scott ("Ken") spent several years in general medicine in the Belfast City Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. He then entered dermatology, in which specialty he continued until retirement. He was appointed consultant dermatologist to the Southern Health Board, based in Craigavon, in 1968. Ken's natural ability as a clinician was complemented by an impressive knowledge of the literature. Apart from medicine he read widely and built up an extensive library. His interest in gardening extended into the realms of botany. He leaves his wife, Florence; a son; and two grandsons.

Andrew Dawson

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Thomas Leopold Venables



General practitioner Nottingham (b 1938; q Cambridge/Westminster 1964; MA, FRCP, FRCGP), died from pulmonary fibrosis on 26 January 2013.

Thomas Leopold Venables ("Tom") practised in Nottingham from 1970 until retirement. He trained undergraduates for 25 years, was an examiner in the RCGP, and was a supporter and sometime president of the Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society. He worked as a ship's doctor during his holidays and was a member of the Wellcome Trust, the John Snow Society, and the Osler Club. He was an authority on the Shackleton polar expeditions, was elected to the Society of Apothecaries, and built up a successful practice in occupational health, earning the diploma in his mid 60s. Tom Venables leaves his wife, two children, and a granddaughter.

Bill Holmes

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