

John M Templeton Jr

Paediatric surgeon, philanthropist, and head of the John Templeton Foundation

John Marks Templeton Jr (b 1940; q Harvard Medical School 1968), died from cancer on 16 May 2015.

In the latter part of 1957, John M Templeton Jr received some bad news—he would have to undergo surgery to repair his left knee. Templeton, the son of mutual funds pioneer, billionaire, and philanthropist John Templeton Sr, had received the injury playing American football, when he was crunched hard simultaneously by three opposing players.

Templeton's doctor, Frank Stinchfield, head of orthopaedic surgery at Columbia University in New York City, explained to the 17 year old boy that to allow his knee to heal properly, the crushed ligament and cartilage would have to be removed. Rather than being worried that his knee would be sliced open, Templeton, known throughout his life by the nickname Jack, became fascinated with the idea of surgery.

"I wanted to participate in my own case," Templeton wrote 50 years later in his autobiography, *John M Templeton Jr: Physician, Philanthropist, Seeker*.¹ "I asked the anaesthetist to give me a spinal, which would allow me to be awake during the operation. I even hoped that they would put up some mirrors so that I could watch the operation, but they flatly refused."

Despite the lack of mirrors, the experience piqued Templeton's interest in medicine. His interest grew even stronger during a summer internship in 1960 at a Presbyterian medical mission in Cameroon, after which he visited Albert Schweitzer's hospital in Gabon. In 1968, Templeton graduated from Harvard Medical School and, not surprisingly, opted to become a surgeon.

At the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia he became recognised as a top surgeon and as an international expert in the evaluation and management of conjoined twins. He also served as director of the hospital's trauma programme, and as professor of paediatric surgery at the University of Pennsylvania.

"He was capable of doing the sort of difficult surgery many shy away from, and his results were superb," says James A O'Neill Jr, who in 1981 was named surgeon in chief at the Children's Hospital, and is now professor of paediatric surgery and chairman emeritus of surgical sciences at



Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. O'Neill adds that Templeton "was a competent and compassionate physician, conscientious to a fault."

"This is what it was all about," Templeton says in his autobiography. "To care for others, to offer life and hope wherever possible. It was the reason I chose to spend my professional life in and around hospitals."

In 1995, however, the year he turned 55, Templeton retired from medicine to manage the John Templeton Foundation, founded in 1987 by his father. The foundation's goal—in its own words—is to serve as "a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the big questions of human purpose and ultimate reality."

It supports research on "subjects ranging from complexity, evolution, and infinity to creativity, forgiveness, love, and free will."

The foundation is seen by some as being conservative, and for blurring the line between science and religion. In 2011 *Nature* published an article on the foundation with the headline, "Religion: Faith in science—the Templeton Foundation claims to be a friend of science. So why does it make so many researchers uneasy?"²

During Templeton's leadership—as president and also as chairman after the death of his father in 2008—its endowment grew from \$28m to \$3.34bn. In 2013 it awarded \$103m in grants, mainly to major universities and scholars worldwide, ranking 55th in total giving among US foundations.

"Among the things for which I am most grateful," Templeton wrote, "is the opportunity to

dedicate my life to promoting the values espoused by the foundation that I am privileged to lead."

John Marks Templeton Jr was born on 19 February 1940 in New York City, the eldest of three children. He was raised in Englewood, New Jersey, and spent summers in the small town of Winchester, Tennessee, the hometown of his father. When he was 11 years old, his mother, an advertising executive, died in a motorbike accident while on holiday.

Templeton studied at Yale, earning a degree in history in 1962. After graduating from Harvard Medical School he started a surgical internship and residency at the Medical College of Virginia. While there he met Josephine Gargiulo, known as Pina, who was training as a paediatric anaesthesiologist. They married in 1970.

Templeton moved to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 1973, training in paediatric surgery under the renowned C Everett Koop.³ After serving two years as a doctor in the US Navy, Templeton returned to the Children's Hospital in 1977. Here he would remain until he retired from medicine, with his wife often serving as his lead anaesthesiologist. In addition to his clinical work, Templeton was also author of dozens of research papers.

"He was very creative and had the capacity to know what aspects of a problem might lead to a solution," says O'Neill. "All his research was patient oriented. He contributed significantly to oesophageal atresia in premature babies, anorectal anomaly repair outcomes related to technique, and conjoined twin reconstruction."

Templeton was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and served as vice chairman of the American Trauma Society, and president of its Pennsylvania division. He served on several boards including the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, Foreign Policy Research Institute, National Bible Association, and Templeton Growth Fund. In addition to his autobiography, he also wrote an inspirational book, *Thrift and Generosity: The Joy Of Giving*.⁴

O'Neill describes Templeton as having a "wonderful sense of humour" and being "very humble," adding that on Christmas eve Templeton and his daughters would present gift baskets to poorer families in Philadelphia. He said that most of what Templeton did for people was done anonymously.

Templeton leaves his wife, who retired from the Children's Hospital in 1999; and two daughters.

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William Menzies Clow



Former consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest; and various hospitals, most recently Whakatane Hospital, New Zealand (b 1941; q 1965; DObst, FRCOG), died from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma on 21 November 2014.

When William Menzies Clow ("Bill") was appointed consultant in 1978, he joined a new unit at Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. He assumed the role of college tutor, clinical lead, and colposcopy lead at various times until 2006, when he retired from the NHS. However, he missed obstetrics and gynaecology, and, free of the ever encroaching pressures of administration and cost saving pressures within the NHS, he embarked on a second career in New Zealand, where he worked from 2006 to 2014, enjoying the freedom of clinical work only and rediscovering his interest in research. Bill leaves his wife, Elspeth; three sons; and six grandchildren.

**M E Clow,
D J Clow,
J A K Davies,
M R Howells**

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Vivian Byron John Edwards



Dentist and former house surgeon (b 1920; q 1944; MRCS Eng), d 7 January 2015.

Vivian Byron John Edwards studied medicine at Charing Cross medical school in Glasgow and London. After qualifying and a spell as house

surgeon, he was enlisted into the Royal Army Medical Corps and dispatched to Burma. On his return, he changed course and began dental studies at the Royal Dental Hospital, qualified in 1951, and moved back to his home town, Leicester. He joined his father in dental practice and worked as a well regarded dentist for a further 32 years. Having been active in two masonic lodges, he passed his last years in a masonic care home, where he maintained an active interest in current affairs. Predeceased by his wife in 2010 he leaves two sons, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Richard Edwards

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David Charles Jeremy Bassett

Bacteriologist (b 1930; q London 1958), d 10 March 2014.

David Charles Jeremy Bassett moved to the Trinidad Regional Virus Laboratory in October 1965. In mid-1966, researchers from Northwestern University in Chicago established a streptococcal disease unit in San Fernando, and David worked at the Port of Spain General Hospital. He returned to London in 1968, where he held various positions, until in 1976 he accepted an offer to work as a bacteriologist at the new Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC). In 1989 he moved to work in Singapore and Hong Kong, after which he returned to the UK in 1995, perhaps to retire, but he was still writing scientific articles and his legacy lives on with the many scientific articles he published in international peer reviewed journals. David leaves his second wife, Seraphina; children; grandchildren; and great grandchildren.

Elisha Tikasingh

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Allan St John Dixon

Emeritus consultant rheumatologist Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath (b 1921; q 1945; OBE, MD Lond, FRCP Lond), d 19 June 2014.

Allan St John Dixon was appointed research registrar at the Canadian



Red Cross Hospital in Taplow, before taking up an appointment at Massachusetts General Hospital in the US. On his return, he worked in Taplow, Manchester University Hospital, and Hammersmith Hospital. In 1986 he joined the newly refurbished Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath, and worked to establish the hospital's reputation for the next 20 years. He recognised the importance of patients' involvement in their own treatment, which led him to establish several national charities; work for which he was awarded the OBE. He leaves Sheila, his wife of 53 years; two children; and four grandchildren.

Anthony Clarke

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Robert James Terry Jarvis



General practitioner Ludham, Norfolk (b 1942; q Bristol 1965; DiplMC Ed), d 16 January 2015.

After qualifying and house jobs at Bristol, Robert James Terry Jarvis ("Bob") travelled to Kenya with his first wife to take up posts as district medical officer, first at Kerugoya, and then at Voi. On returning to the UK he took up general practice in Ludham in the Norfolk Broads. He became a partner in 1970 and stayed there until he retired. He was involved with the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service, providing prehospital emergency care. Throughout his career he worked a weekly session in accident and emergency medicine; he gave his time freely as medical adviser to the RNLI's Happisburgh lifeboat and on adoption panels for the Children's

Society. He leaves his second wife, Bella; two children; grandchildren; and his first wife, Sue.

Colin Sale

Cite this as: BMJ 2015;351:h3918

Timothy Packer



Consultant psychiatrist (b 1949; q Cambridge/St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 1975; MRCPsych), d 22 September 2014.

Timothy Parker ("Tim") was appointed to a consultant post in Exeter, Devon, in 1987. Throughout his career he had a vital role in the Exeter training scheme. He "retired" from his main clinical role in 2008 and developed a second career in medical education, teaching, and overseeing the Exeter ECT clinic. He also appreciated the extra time available to work on his golf swing, his stroke play in tennis, and his many other interests, which included learning the guitar and cycling trips in the Devon countryside. Although he never smoked, he developed a cough and was soon diagnosed with lung cancer with a brain metastasis. He leaves his wife, Gail, and two sons, Robbie and Simon.

Martin Briscoe

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