



OBITUARIES

Joseph Luder

Robert Luder



Joseph Luder, the youngest son of six siblings, was brought up in the East End of London, by immigrant Jewish parents from Ukraine. He said he was inspired as a child to study medicine when a doctor looked into his eye with an ophthalmoscope. He won a scholarship to study at Guy's Hospital, where he qualified in 1945. After serving in the Royal Air Force in the Far East, he decided on a career in paediatrics, then a new and developing specialty. He worked at Great Ormond Street with Wilfred Sheldon (with whom in 1955 he described a new form of proximal renal tubular disease, now known as the Luder-Sheldon syndrome), and in Kampala in Uganda from 1954 to 1956. On his return, he was appointed consultant to the Royal Northern

Hospital in Holloway, and later the Whittington Hospital in Highgate, where he continued to work until he retired from the NHS in 1986. He took a specialist interest in cerebral palsy and worked for the Spastics Society (as it was then called) in central London and Watford. He helped classify competitors at some of the early Paralympic games when he worked with Sir Ludwig Guttmann at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. He developed a large and extensive private practice in Harley Street and at the Wellington Hospital, the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, and Hendon Garden Hospital, among others. He was very well known in London and was consulted by many famous clients, including film stars, celebrities, politicians, and pop musicians. After retiring from the NHS, he developed his medicolegal work, which he continued into his late 80s.

He was always noted for his diplomacy, kindness, and reassuring presence, as well as a twinkle in his eye, one of the most frequently mentioned attributes in all the tributes he had after his death.

He had a great love of gardening, cricket, history, and inland waterways, and he also loved travelling with the BMA on foreign trips, being greeted by the king and queen of Thailand on one occasion. His other great interest was Israel, which he visited many times and for which he was active in various capacities, notably the British Friends of Magen David Adom (Israel's Red Cross). He leaves his wife, Shirley; two sons (both doctors); seven grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

Biography

Consultant paediatrician Royal Northern and Whittington hospitals, London (b 1923, q Guy's Hospital 1945; MD, FRCP, DCH, FRCPC), died from congestive cardiac failure and ischaemic heart disease on 24 January 2018

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