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Donald Macgregor Brown

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Donald Macgregor Brown was a trusted and respected consultant anaesthetist, who spent many devoted years at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. His steadiness and careful appreciation of the individual left his patients with a sense of safety and care delivered by the team. During his time at GRI he developed the chronic pain clinic, a passion for him. He used to joke it was more psychology than anaesthesia, spending lengthy appointments with patients, preparing them for life with pain. For example, Donald developed alternative modes of pain treatment—such as hypnosis—lending

an extra dimension to the scope of treatment for patients. This was one of the first such clinics in the UK, and with John Reid he established this ongoing service in the hospital. Donald always saw that as his major achievement, but there were so many others. He worked with some very difficult but eminent surgeons, showing a mutual respect between their own areas of expertise. Donald was also the “go-to” anaesthetist to give the trauma orthopaedic patient the best chance of surviving the surgery by using anaesthesia to its full potential. He was an

enthusiastic and calm teacher, spreading his philosophy of comforting and caring for the people he treated. Academically, Donald also published on anaesthetic changes in blood flow and lectured in India to educate in progressive anaesthesia.

“Don” was born in Corriecravie on the Isle of Arran. He was the youngest, by 10 years, of three sons on the farm. He followed his two elder brothers by moving from the local Sliddery School to Keil School, Dumbarton, for secondary education. Keil was an important part of Donald’s life because he loved the school and he was an active member of the FP (Old Boy’s) club. After national service in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he managed to gain the qualifications to the University of Glasgow. He enjoyed the sporting life, played rugby for the university, and was secretary of the athletics club. He met Ann via her brother Donald, a former Keil boy, at university before setting off as a cruise ship’s doctor. He served mainly on the *Empress of Canada*, and came back to start GP training. At Blackpool he so loved his first taste of anaesthesia that it made him opt for this career instead. Once he had trained, the opportunity arose for a consultant position at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and he jumped at the chance. To his delight he was appointed and he settled in Glasgow with his family.

Throughout his life, Donald never lost touch with the farm at Corriecravie on the Isle of Arran. He was there every summer, helping his brother, James, on the farm. Because of the intense and friendly competition, there was anticipation and excitement every year at the Arran agricultural show at the beginning of August. On one memorable occasion, which showed his skill and strength, Donald manhandled the Corriecravie raging bull that had become loose in the public area. This caused a huge commotion in Arran’s version of the Pamplona bull run, but Donald calmly took control and saved the day.

In retirement Donald spent his time initially playing golf and helping on the farm, but then mostly gardening (especially in a polytunnel, owing to the wind) and making sticks. His prize winnings at the Arran show in numerous years, including 2019, were proud moments for him. His love for farming throughout his life manifested latterly with him buying and looking after his Clydesdale horse, Ruby. He especially enjoyed the showing of Ruby at the aforementioned annual Arran agricultural show and also at the Scottish National Museum of Rural Life.

Donald was known for his humour, social parties, and dancing in the operating theatre. He was club doctor for Jordanhill RFC and had a great love of all things Arran, where he spent most of his retirement. He leaves his wife, Anthea (Ann); two children; and four grandchildren. He was loved and will be sorely missed by his extended family and friends.

Consultant anaesthetist and pain specialist (b 1932; q Glasgow 1960; FFARCS, DRCOG), died from pneumonia after a short illness on 29 October 2019