

William Richard Keatinge

Physiologist who elucidated how to cope with extremes of temperature

Bill Keatinge, a regular contributor to the *BMJ*, was an applied physiologist who showed how to prevent deaths from temperature extremes, including being in cold water. Using a combination of epidemiology and experiments on volunteers, he showed that people who lived in very cold or very hot climates were less likely to die of hypothermia or heat stroke because they used appropriate safeguards. Siberians had a lower incidence of deaths from hypothermia than did western Europeans because they wore a dozen or more garments in four or five layers; they also wore hats outdoors and when things got really bad exchanged their anoraks for furs. He showed that elderly people died by getting common diseases from mild cold stress during everyday life in cities and not, as is commonly supposed, at home with inadequate heating. If forced to stay outdoors, Siberians built windbreaks, and he therefore advocated enclosed bus shelters. He showed that labourers working outdoors were less at risk of hypothermia than were their wives.

He showed that people in hot climates kept cool by closing their windows and curtains by day to keep the hot air out, and doing the reverse by night to let the cool air in. He warned that deaths in hot weather, blamed on air pollution and ozone, really happened because people forgot the simple message: stay cool when the weather is hot. He showed that elderly people with heat stroke were more likely to die at the start of a hot summer than at the end because they hadn't adjusted their habits; they could be cooled down by being sponged down with cold water. He advised Lynne Cox, the American long distance open water swimmer, not to swim across the Bering Strait, although she did so on 7 August 1987.

In the 1970s he was consulted by the North Sea oil industry, concerned that divers sometimes died from cold; although warm water was pumped into their suits it was usually cold by the time it reached them, and their colleagues didn't pump boiling water down for fear of scalding them. He helped develop suits that were heated from a bat-

tery, rather like the gloves and socks worn by motorcyclists.

He got the First Sea Lord to release sailors as volunteers; his other volunteers included himself, colleagues, students, and members of his daughter's swimming club.

Bill was the son of Sir Edgar Keatinge, CBE, a farmer and Tory MP. When Bill was 9 he was evacuated by ship to family friends in Canada. His happy life there gave him confidence and self reliance, and he saw the D Day invasion fleet on the way back. From Rugby School he studied medicine at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and St Thomas' Hospital. After his house jobs he did his national service in the navy, working with divers, and this led to his life's work.

He returned to Cambridge as director of medical studies at Pembroke College for two years, going to the San Francisco Cardiovascular Research Institute for a further year as a Fulbright fellow. He returned to a Medical Research Council appointment at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, during 1961-8 and was made a fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford.

He spent the rest of his working life in the physiology department of the London Hospital Medical College, starting in 1969 as reader in physiology and rapidly rising to professor and "retiring" (which he didn't) as emeritus professor.

He published over 100 research papers, two textbooks—*Survival in Cold Water* (1969) and *Local Mechanisms Controlling Blood Vessels* (1980)—and a popular book—*Hazards from Cold, Heat and Poisons in Daily Life: How to Avoid Them* (2007), which can be downloaded free from <http://www.lulu.com/content/1045864>. He wrote many chapters in multi-author textbooks.

He was a friendly, sociable person, a gentleman of the old school, and an outstanding teacher. He ran an active and successful research group and was elected dean of medicine in 1991.

Much of his later work was in or about Russia. He spoke the language, liked the literature, and made many friends there. His experiences there included entering an eye hospital by climbing through the window and eating raw horse meat in the Sakha Republic.

His failures included failing to resuscitate a polar bear with a broken neck. He was



in Alaska attempting to study temperature before, during, and after hibernation in a pair of bears. The bears had been shot with short acting anaesthetic darts. One was knocked out as intended but the other ran into, and up, a tree, falling off. While Bill was attempting to resuscitate it—he was unaware it had broken its neck—his colleagues inserted a rectal probe in the other bear, which

woke up, very aggrieved. Exit Keatinge, pursued by a bear.

Bill enjoyed history, classical archaeology, dinghy sailing and other outdoor pursuits, and forestry.

He called himself a "hardy perennial" on official committees and in the media; he gave his last interview three weeks before he died from the prostate cancer he had had for 30 years.

He married Annette Hegarty, who died suddenly in 2000; they had two daughters and a son. He married Lynnette Nelson, who survives him along with his children from his first marriage.

Caroline Richmond

Professor William Richard Keatinge, emeritus professor of physiology, and dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Queen Mary and Westfield College (b 1931; q Cambridge/St Thomas' 1955; PhD, FRCP), d 11 April 2008.

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Alexander Cattanach



Former general practitioner New Milton, Hampshire (b 1924; q Glasgow 1952), d 15 April 2008. Alexander Cattanach (“Sandy”) studied medicine after five years’ wartime service in the Royal Artillery, during which he rose to the rank of battery commander. After various hospital jobs, he practised first in Crewe and then New Milton, retiring in 1984. He worked as a singlehanded general practitioner and then planned the first purpose built health centre in Hampshire with two colleagues. In retirement he was very active in Lymington Community Association and was chairman of Lymington Hospital Appeal Fund. He leaves a wife, Joan; two daughters; and five grandchildren.
Sue Jenner, Siriol Sherlock
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Celina Keenor



Former general practitioner Maidstone, Kent (b 1966; q Edinburgh 1991; DRCOG, DFFP), d 11 November 2007. After training in Merseyside, Celina Keenor was a general practitioner principal in Borough Green in Kent for eight years, before moving to a salaried post near Maidstone. She had recently taken a career break to look after her baby son full time. She had interests in psychiatry and women’s health, and was responsible for staff management for a time. She was enormously popular, as evidenced by the many

Christmas cards from patients each year. She was conscientious, patient, and deeply humane. She leaves a husband, Mark, and son, Sam.
Dawn Renfrew
 Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a967

Anthea Lilian MacBean (Candlin)



Former general practitioner Islington, north London (b 1926; q St Andrews 1949), died on 10 January 2008 after a series of strokes. Anthea Lilian MacBean originally hoped to take up a surgical career but was hampered by recurring low grade fevers, thought to be brucellosis. After work as a pathologist in the United Kingdom and United States, she subsequently became a partner in a general practice in Islington and eventually worked as a singlehanded general practitioner. She was very well known in Canonbury, making almost all of her visits personally, day and night, in her recognisable Volkswagen Beetle. She bore six children in 8.5 years, taking maternity leave only once. She leaves a husband, Richard Candlin; six children; and seven grandchildren.
Richard Candlin
 Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a962

Richard Louis Page

Consultant chest physician Leeds (b 1942; q Middlesex Hospital 1967; DM, FRCP, MFOM), died from small cell lung cancer on 28 February 2008. After house jobs, Richard Page returned to the Middlesex as a medical registrar. He completed his training in Nottingham as a MRC research fellow, and in East Anglia as a senior registrar, before taking up his consultant appointment in 1979 in Leeds, where he worked at St James’s University Hospital, Killingbeck Hospital, and Leeds Chest Clinic. As chairman of

the British Thoracic Society’s professional standards committee and executive member, 1999-2002, he set up the BTS interdepartmental peer review scheme to develop respiratory services in the UK. Having chosen not to retire at 65, he underwent treatment of his cancer bravely and pragmatically. He leaves a wife, Cath, and two sons.
Mark Elliott
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Samuel Sloan



Former general practitioner Belfast (b 1923, q Queen’s University, Belfast, 1945), died from heart failure on 2 May 2008. Samuel Sloan (“Sam”) qualified at the age of 22 and retired at the age of 70. He worked as an assistant in Newtownards and Londonderry before purchasing a practice of 500 patients in the Grosvenor Road area of Belfast in 1948, two weeks before the inauguration of the NHS. The practice became one of the largest singlehanded practices in Northern Ireland, although he went into partnership latterly. Sam also taught domiciliary midwifery at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Belfast, was the former factory medical officer for Falls Flax Spinning and Irish Linen Mills in Belfast, and became county surgeon of St John Ambulance Brigade (cadets). He leaves a wife, Doris; four children; and five grandchildren.
David Sloan
 Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a968

Bryan Eykyn Lomb Thompson

Former medical superintendent St Luke’s Hospital, Hiranpur, Bihar, India (b 1925; q Cambridge/St Bartholomew’s Hospital 1949; MBE), died from a heart attack on 2 June 2008.

Bryan Eykyn Lomb Thompson and his wife, Helen Macfarlane Thompson (née Mair) (*BMJ* 2008;337:a913), worked in St Luke’s Hospital, north India, for 35 years from 1955. He practised adult and paediatric medicine, surgery, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, and occasionally obstetrics, becoming medical superintendent in 1959. Always punctual and conscientious, he led by example and taught medical students from many countries. In the 1970s primary health care was prioritised, smallpox being eradicated from the *Paharia* tribe. Latterly, he frequently travelled 140 miles to help John Hobson, an ophthalmologist colleague. He leaves three daughters and five grandchildren.
Heather Shamlaye, Rowan Thompson, Kirsteen Dutton
 Cite this as: *BMJ* 2008;337:a912

Helen Macfarlane Thompson (née Mair)

Former obstetrician and gynaecologist St Luke’s Hospital, Hiranpur, Bihar, India (b 1924; q Glasgow 1947; MBE, DObstRCOG), died on 5 February 2008 from complications of a head injury due to a fall. On the point of taking her MRCOG, Helen Macfarlane Thompson (née Mair) sailed to India with her husband, Bryan (*BMJ* 2008;337:a912), in 1955, and served a poor rural population in St Luke’s Hospital for 35 years. She worked virtually singlehandedly for much of the time, conducting complex obstetric and gynaecological procedures and providing effective family planning. She successfully helped manage the hospital and taught generations of elective medical students. Multitasking was her forte. She predeceased Brian by some four months and leaves three daughters and five grandchildren.
James A M Findlay, Gordon N Dutton
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