

Donald Jeffries

Virologist who helped shape the UK response to HIV

Donald James Jeffries, clinical virologist (b 1941; q 1966, Royal Free Hospital, London), died on 7 December 2011 from myocardial infarction.

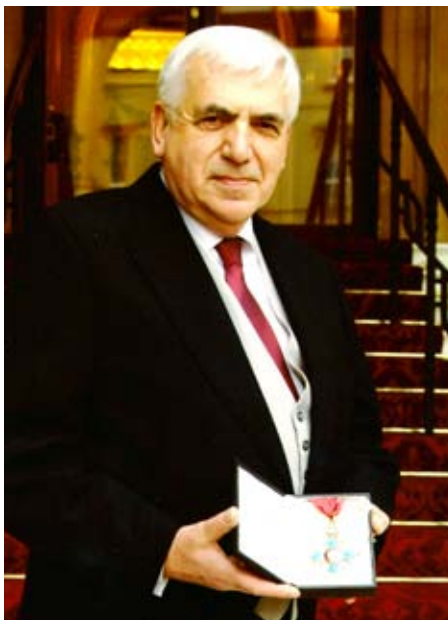
The clinical virologist Professor Donald James Jeffries was at the forefront of the UK response to HIV and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). His prolific research programme in HIV/AIDS included studies into routes of infection, disease course, drug development, and trials of clinical treatments. Working with Roche on the development of saquinavir (Invirase), the first of the protease inhibitor class of antiretroviral drugs, was a critical step in the history of HIV therapy and underpinned remarkable advances in prognosis for people with HIV.

Surgical instruments

Don's legacy for HIV and TSEs includes a wealth of sensible guidance in some of the most challenging areas of medical and scientific policy and practice of the past 30 years. Examples include giving guidance on safe practices for healthcare workers with HIV; changing the life insurance industry's code of practice to assess risk behaviour rather than sexual orientation when calculating premiums; advising on decontamination of surgical instruments; and the introduction of universal precautions to reduce transmission of blood borne infections.

Born and brought up in north London, Don qualified in 1966 at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School, subsequently training in pathology. He was the first person to gain membership of the Royal College of Pathologists in virology by examination in 1974, becoming a fellow in 1986 and elected vice president from 1999 to 2002. Working over 20 years on viral hepatitis and herpes as a clinician and academic at St Mary's Hospital and Medical School, London, Don became reader in virology in 1987.

It was at St Mary's that he first encountered the challenges posed by HIV and brought his quiet authority and leadership to bear. Many of the early UK patients with AIDS were presenting, and there was disquiet among staff. Colleagues tell of the many meetings at which clinicians, laboratory staff, porters, and others aired their fears about this new and unknown condition. Don listened, gave careful consideration to the many concerns raised, and was able to allay much of the anxiety through his expert knowledge, thoughtfulness, and calm common sense, allowing the hospital to cope and deliver high quality care. The lessons reached far beyond St Mary's because those Don had taught embodied his approach to HIV/AIDS.



Don was one of the first UK virologists to implement rapid testing for HIV by appointing a nurse counsellor to work alongside him, now taken as standard

In 1990 Don was appointed professor of virology at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, becoming in 1998 academic and clinical head of microbiology and virology for the combined medical school and for the Barts and the London NHS Trust. He held this position until he retired, in 2006. At the time of his arrival at Barts the clinical HIV service was just being established, anxiety levels were high, and even simple blood analyses for patients with HIV were difficult to obtain. With calm teaching he reassured many staff and made the crucial difference that allowed the clinical service to expand. Don was one of the first UK virologists not only to implement rapid testing for HIV by appointing a nurse counsellor to work alongside him, but also to advocate HIV testing in pregnancy to reduce vertical transmission, both of which are now taken as standard for care.

Don was an excellent teacher. Getting the right information in the right format to the right people was one of his greatest strengths. He raised standards nationally and internationally through his extensive lecturing and work as an examiner. Don flourished in his role as director of clinical studies at St Mary's and continued his educational involvement at Bart's and the London, setting up a bachelor of medical sciences course and chairing the bachelor of medicine and surgery committee.

He contributed to the medical textbook *Clinical Medicine* by Kumar and Clark and produced *Lecture Notes on Medical Virology*.

Inspired confidence

Don was tall, with a deep voice, and a friendly but thoughtful manner, which inspired confidence. Always available for his colleagues, he was elected by the Barts consultant body to serve as deputy chairman of the medical council between 1993 and 1995, the difficult period when the hospital was under threat of closure. Don's longstanding involvement with the British HIV Association, from a founding member, to chairing the group of external advisers, to the executive board, was valued by the membership.

Because of his knowledge, experience, and sensitivity, coupled with his ability to provide leadership at times of uncertainty, Don was the obvious person to provide advice at the highest level on HIV and other difficult and dangerous pathogens such as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). He was regularly sought after to serve on local, national, and international working parties, committees, and advisory groups, including the Committee on Safety of Medicines, the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS, and the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP). Much of his time before and after retirement was taken up with work on the TSEs, serving as vice chairman of the CJD incidents panel, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology, and the ACDP TSE working group. Don had an encyclopaedic recall of the many often controversial decisions made by these groups, including early discussions that had led to particular outcomes. Colleagues have commented on the magnitude of the loss of this memory bank.

Don's contribution has been recognised through many awards, fellowships, and positions, and in particular by his CBE (commander of the order of the British Empire). He wrote of how much he appreciated it (typically, it was a complete surprise to him), and the resulting correspondence from colleagues.

Don was a keen fly fisherman and had been a forceful left handed batsman, who enjoyed village cricket in Buckinghamshire. An active gardener, he kept a productive vegetable allotment and enjoyed hill walking and natural history, particularly bird watching. He was supported throughout his career by his wife, Mary, a nurse who he leaves, along with their three children.

Jane Anderson, Geoff Ridgway

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2012;344:e922

Patrick Joseph Connolly



Former general practitioner, Glasgow (b 1913; q Glasgow, 1936), d 5 November 2011.

Patrick Joseph Connolly left Ireland to study at Glasgow University and after graduating joined his uncle's Glasgow practice. After volunteering for the Royal Air Force at the outbreak of the second world war he was posted to Singapore and later spent almost four years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, caring for fellow prisoners by giving blood transfusions. Such dedication and commitment to his patients stayed with him and was a key element of his success as a GP in Glasgow's Gorbals and Govanhill areas. His long retirement allowed him time to pursue interests in fishing, golf, history, bridge, and computer technology. A regular *BMJ* reader until his death, he kept his family—several generations of whom followed him into medicine—abreast of recent developments.

Katie McLintock

Rosemary Dargie

Cite this as: BMJ 2012;344:e419

Elizabeth Heitzman



Former general practitioner, Berkshire, and medical adviser to the parliamentary ombudsman (b 1941; q Birmingham 1965; FRCGP, DCH), died from motor neurone disease on 16 November 2011.

Elizabeth Heitzman née Bingham ("Liz") entered general practice after completing her house jobs, setting up a practice in the rural village of Compton, Berkshire, later joining forces with a neighbouring practice to form

the Downland Practice. A GP trainer, she was also a vocational training scheme course organiser in Reading. As an examiner for the Royal College of General Practitioners, Liz developed the simulated surgery module of the MRCGP. In 1996 she became a medical adviser to the parliamentary ombudsman as well as a GMC council member. She was provost of the RCGP Thames Valley Faculty, demitting office only two weeks before she died. She leaves her husband, Ray, and two daughters.

Sue Rendel

Cite this as: BMJ 2012;344:e426

Robert Goudie MacFarlane



Former consultant physician, Royal Army Medical Corps, and director of army medicine (b 1917; q Glasgow 1940; MBE, MD, FRCP), d 19 March 2011.

Robert Goudie MacFarlane served in India and Burma during the war. In 1950 he was awarded the MBE for his part in dealing with a polio epidemic while serving at the British Military Hospital (BMH) Malta. Postings to BMH Canal Zone and Cowglen Hospital, Glasgow, were followed by command of the Army Chest Centre in Hindhead. Robert MacFarlane was consultant physician at BMH Dhekelia, Cyprus, from 1962 and at Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, from 1965 and commanded BMH Iserlohn, Germany, from 1968 to 1970. His last appointment was as director of army medicine and honorary physician to the Queen in the rank of major general. After his retirement from the army he was deputy secretary to the Scottish Council for Postgraduate Medical Education for 10 years. Finally he was a civilian medical practitioner in Sennelager, Germany, until 1988. Predeceased by his wife, Mary, he leaves three sons.

Martin MacFarlane

Cite this as: BMJ 2012;344:e414

Paul Sebastian Richardson



Former reader in physiology St George's Medical School, London (b 1942; q Oxford BM 1968, DM 1974), drowned while swimming in the sea in Croatia on 1 October 2011.

Paul Sebastian Richardson was one of the original academic staff, appointed in 1976, to the newly built medical school of St George's. He was a respiratory physiologist whose research centred on mucus secretion from the airways. He developed avian and mammalian models to study this and introduced his techniques to many research students. He was on the editorial board of the *Journal of Physiology* from 1974 to 1978. He leaves his wife, Susan, and four children from his first marriage.

John Henderson

Cite this as: BMJ 2012;344:e425

Helen Street



Former general practitioner and family planning doctor (b 1921; q Birmingham 1945), died with Alzheimer's disease on 18 June 2011.

Born in Glasgow, Helen Street trained under her father, Professor Haswell Wilson. Her career as a general practitioner was interrupted by her husband Peter's career moves. During 10 years in Buenos Aires she volunteered in both planned parenthood clinics and the National Burns Institute. After returning to the UK she was active as a teacher in family planning clinics across Oxfordshire and started new family planning clinics in Putney and

Teesside. In retirement she was deeply committed to bereavement counselling. She is survived by three sons and seven grandchildren.

Simon Street

Cite this as: BMJ 2012;344:e559

Ian Douglas Hutchinson Todd



Former consultant in radiotherapy and oncology and deputy director of radiotherapy Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester (b 1927, q Aberdeen 1950; FRCP, FRCR), died from vascular dementia on 2 November 2011.

Ian Douglas Hutchinson Todd served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Malaya. His early medical career was in London, then at the Christie Hospital from 1958 until retirement, where his clinical interests were breast cancer and lymphomas. He was involved with the early trials of tamoxifen, coauthoring the first clinical paper. A trustee of the Pat Seed Appeal Fund, raising money for advanced imaging equipment, Ian was a member of council of the British Institute of Radiology, member of council and education board for the Royal College of Radiologists, and chairman of the examining board for the FRCR. His greatest satisfaction was in caring for patients and enjoying family life with Jo and their four children.

Jane Malcolm

Susan Todd

Peter Todd

Cite this as: BMJ 2012;344:e421

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