

William Forbes Hendry

Urologist who pioneered cystectomy for bladder cancer and improved patients' survival

William Forbes Hendry, consultant urologist (b 1938; q 1961 University of Glasgow), died from a heart attack on 3 October 2012.

When the consultant urologist Bill Hendry reached his 60th birthday he decided to make a clean break from medicine, and he and his wife moved to the Isle of Lewis to breed cattle.

This remarkable career change was characteristic of a man who had an all or nothing attitude to life, say family and colleagues. Jonathan Ramsay, now a consultant urologist at Hammersmith and Charing Cross Hospitals in London, worked as Hendry's trainee at Barts from 1977 to 1988. As a surgeon Hendry was always "at the top of his game," says Ramsay.

"Whatever he set out to do it was always going to be as good an experience for the patient and for the outcome as it could possibly be. And he treated each new surgical task as a challenge requiring continuous refinement," Ramsay says.

This approach to his work began in the early part of his career when he treated patients with bladder cancer. In the late 1960s and early 1970s it was assumed that radiotherapy alone was a safer and better treatment for bladder cancer, but Hendry thought otherwise and began to perform cystectomies both as primary operations and after radiotherapy. At the time cystectomies were performed rarely because they were both complex and prone to postoperative complications. He published a study in the *British Journal of Urology* that showed that three and five year survival rates were about 10% higher among patients who had preoperative radiotherapy and cystectomy, compared with patients who only had radical radiotherapy.¹

One of the keys to his success was his meticulous record keeping. He kept records of all his patients' details, procedures, and follow-up care in a box in his study for research. "He had a considerable degree of introspection and he was self critical and objective. These are unusual traits in a surgeon," says Ramsay.

Oncology and infertility

Hendry was the son of an obstetrician and was born and brought up in Nuneaton. He studied medicine at Glasgow University, where he met his wife, Chirsty, a nurse. He worked in the United States as a Fulbright scholar for two years before returning to Glasgow to continue his surgical training. When he chose urology



Hendry was known for his aphorisms, such as, "There are three steps to bladder emptying when doing a cystectomy: first empty your own bladder, then make sure your assistant has emptied his/her bladder, and then empty the patient's bladder"

as a specialty he moved to Portsmouth, and in 1975 he was appointed consultant at Barts in east London, with sessions at the Royal Marsden cancer hospital and the Chelsea Hospital for Women.

These three hospitals gave him a huge variety of patients to work with, as well as the opportunity to spot important connections between oncology and infertility. For men with testicular cancer whose cancer had spread to the retroperitoneal lymph nodes he was one of the first surgeons to show that removal of the lymph nodes in men in the later stages of the disease was possible and, more importantly, successful. The operation was seen as highly complex because of the dangers of damaging the ejaculatory nerve.

To offset this danger he worked on nerve sparing techniques and even undertook cadaveric dissections in anatomy laboratories to study the nerve.

This led him to working with men who were unable to ejaculate for other reasons, and he developed sperm reservoirs made of silicone that were inserted into a man's inguinal canal and then aspirated when sperm was required

for a process of intrauterine insemination. He also looked at aspects of electroejaculation.

He also proved the existence of antisperm antibodies and showed how they could be reduced by steroid treatment.

Surgery and intellectual problems

Justin Vale, now a consultant urologist at Imperial College London and a trainee under Hendry, says that one of his strengths was finding the right person to collaborate with on a clinical problem.

"He posed the question, and then he worked with people who he knew could help," says Vale.

Ramsay says that it is unusual for a surgeon to take an interest in an "intellectual problem" such as fertility. "It's not like cutting out a bladder. He was thinking about something that was extremely challenging—a system failure that he could investigate."

When Hendry's colleagues and protégés get together they often remember his aphorisms, one of which was: "There are three steps to bladder emptying when doing a cystectomy: first empty your own bladder, then make sure your assistant has emptied his/her bladder, and then empty the patient's bladder." He also drummed into his trainees the importance of good timekeeping and treating all colleagues with respect and politeness.

Hendry's daughter, Louise, a haematologist at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, says that as he approached his retirement he decided that a surgeon's skills had a finite lifespan and moved to the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides to take up a croft next door to one that belonged to his wife's family. Together they set up a herd of Highland cattle, and cows took the place of his patients.

"He loved surgery but wanted a complete change," she says. "He was a man of great enthusiasms, and he got very involved in the community, helping to improve and renovate a community centre in Barvas."

His wife was given a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, and he nursed her until her death in March 2012. He intended to write a book about his experiences as a guide for other carers but died before this plan, and others, came to fruition.

He leaves his daughter and two sons.

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References are in the version on bmj.com.

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f163

John Brandon Enticknap



Former consultant pathologist Whipps Cross Hospital, London (b 1922; q Charing Cross Hospital 1945; MD, FRCPath), d 7 July 2012.

John Brandon Enticknap did his national service with the Royal Army Medical Corps and was appointed director of pathology in West Africa. His first consultant appointment was at East Ham Memorial Hospital in 1954. He practised forensic pathology, was secretary of the East Saxon branch of the Association of Chemical Pathologists, and was a founder member of the Royal College of Pathologists. He served as a medical officer at motor races and undertook research and negotiations leading to the drink driving laws. As consultant chemical pathologist at Whipps Cross Hospital, he pioneered the use of computers. He continued as forensic pathologist in the eastern district of Greater London until his cardiac bypass in 1989. John leaves his wife, Pauline; three sons; and two grandchildren.

Nicholas Enticknap
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f68

Muhammed Mumtaz Hassan

Professor and director of paediatrics Children’s Hospital Islamabad, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (b 1952; q King Edward Medical College Lahore 1974; DCH, DTM&H, FRCPC), d 12 September 2012.

After training in the UK Muhammed Mumtaz Hassan studied paediatric cardiology in Iran and Japan. At the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences he headed a thriving unit and was involved in paediatrics at a national level. He received praise for his humanitarian work after an earthquake in Azad Kashmir in 2005 and was honoured with the fellowship of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan. He enjoyed taking on short

locum consultant posts during his visits to the UK. He collapsed and died, apparently from a heart attack, on his way home from an evening clinic. He leaves his wife, a daughter, and two sons.

Jeff Bissenden
Douglas Addy
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f58

Daniel Marchac



Consultant craniofacial surgeon Hôpital Necker-Enfants Malades, Paris (b 1936; q Paris 1961), died from lymphoma on 15 October 2012.

Daniel Marchac trained in Paris and the US. In the late 1960s he described a modification of a frontonasal flap used for resurfacing large nasal defects, which later became known as the Marchac flap. In 1976 he established a formal craniofacial unit at Hôpital Necker-Enfants Malades. Daniel and colleagues pioneered the use of transcranial craniofacial techniques to correct congenital defects in very young children. He was behind the International Society of Craniofacial Surgery and in 1989 founded the European Association of Plastic Surgery (EURAPS). Daniel travelled the world, teaching and lecturing. He published widely and was much decorated for his achievements and held in high esteem by his colleagues and friends. He leaves his wife, Nina, and their two children, as well as two children from his first marriage.

Barry M Jones
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f60

Erda Pamela Moffitt
Former clinical assistant in psychiatry, clinical medical officer in family planning, clinical medical officer in school health, and disability analyst doctor (b 1927; q Dublin 1956), died from metastatic breast cancer on 2 July 2012.



Erda Pamela Moffitt (née Bodden, known as “Pam”) arrived in London from her native Trinidad in 1947. Her medical career started at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, in 1950, where she also met and married a fellow medical student, John Moffitt. After several years in Canada the couple moved to London in 1959. While her children were small Pam took a part time post at the Fair Mile Hospital, a Victorian mental hospital where John was already employed, and where she stayed for almost 30 years. After retiring from the NHS she worked for the Department for Work and Pensions. A former smoker, she developed emphysema and breast cancer. She leaves two daughters and two granddaughters.

Gin Moffitt
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2012;345:e8037

David Howell Clason Thomas



General practitioner Newport, Gwent (b 1926; q Cambridge/London 1950), died from cardiac failure on 9 September 2012. After his medical training and national service in the Royal Air Force, David Howell Clason Thomas started work as a GP in Newport, Gwent, in 1956. He soon became renowned for his clinical acumen and his holistic approach to medicine. He also worked as police surgeon for Gwent police. In 1994 he retired from general practice and spent several years working on medical boards. During his retirement, Clason was able to embark on walking and exploring the countryside of

Wales and Scotland. Predeceased by his first wife and one of their four children, Clason leaves his second wife, Loraine, and their two daughters.

Adrian Carr
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f70

James Downie Walker



General surgeon and general practitioner Australia (b 1931; q Leeds 1956; FRCS Ed), died from a urinary infection on 3 August 2012.

James Downie Walker (“Jim”) became a government medical officer in what was then Southern Rhodesia after his house jobs. He undertook a “crash course” in surgery and plunged into upcountry African surgery and medicine. Animal injuries, snake bite, and urinary schistosomiasis were common, with occasional smallpox. Other duties included performing postmortem examinations. After five years he returned to Leeds to train in surgery and then emigrated with his family to a small township in Australia, where he worked as a surgeon and general practitioner for the rest of his career. Having returned to Leeds on retirement he had Alzheimer’s disease for the last six years of his life. He leaves his wife, Christine; three children; and five grandchildren.

Christine Walker
Harry Egddell
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f63

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