

## Obituary:

## Derek Harwood-Nash

The world of radiology has lost one of its great personalities on the death of Prof Harwood-Nash. Derek made his name in Canada but remained proud of his African origins and qualifications. He was a staunch friend and supporter of South African radiology. Our sincere condolences to his wife, Barbara and her family who also became great friends of ours over the years.

Derek's career was summed up in his citation for the degree of DSc which he received at the graduation ceremony at the University of Cape Town on 12 December 1995 as follows:

"Derek Clive Harwood-Nash was born in 1936 in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia where he completed his schooling. He graduated MBChB from UCT in 1960. After his internship at Groote Schuur Hospital he commenced a surgical career as neurosurgical fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. He switched to radiology in 1964 completing his residency training in 1967.

He was head of the Division of Paediatric Neuroradiology, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto from 1968-1978 and Radiologist in Chief 1978-1988. His stature in the world of radiology is reflected by his membership of numerous medical societies, committees, editorial boards and invitations to deliver keynote addresses all over the world. Senior appointments and honours include President, American Society of Neuroradiology 1986; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Paediatric Neuroradiology 1994-; President, Society for Paediatric Radiology 1986-1987; Founding President of the World Federation of Neuroradiological Societies 1994-1998 and the award of the Honorary Fellowship of the College of Radiology of the College of Medicine of South Africa in 1991.

His DSc(Med) was awarded for his contribution to Paediatric Neuroradiology over a period of 30 years. It would not be an exaggeration to say that, almost single handedly, he established and subsequently refined



the sub-discipline of Paediatric Neuroradiology which is now recognised and accepted internationally. In particular his three volume textbook, *Neuroradiology in Infants and Children*, with Charles Fitz in 1976 provided the first authoritative reference in the field. A striking feature of his work is his ability to adapt technology and techniques to infants and children, to document these adaptations clearly and then to assess their importance in clinical management. His contributions including publications of over 200 articles in peer reviewed journals, and inspiring, training and nurturing of numerous fellows in Paediatric Neuroradiology have significantly influenced scientific medical practice."

**JP deV Van Niekerk**

*Prof Van Niekerk is Dean of the UCT Medical School*

Derek Harwood-Nash, known around the world as DHN, died from a cerebrovascular catastrophe in Toronto on 18 October 1996.

On that night, in an attempt to correct the arterial damage, neuroradiologists, some of whom had been trained under his watchful eye, laboured with catheters. It was all in

vain. He was 60 years of age, cut down in his prime, and paediatric radiology lost one of its greatest innovators.

Earlier in the year DHN had delivered a eulogy about my retirement from radiology at a congress in Boston. Afterwards I thanked him and suggested jokingly that he write my obituary. With a serious sparkle in his

eye, he replied that I might have to write his as he had recently suffered a popliteal aneurysm.

His academic achievements have been summarised above by JP van Niekerk. This ebullient and amazing man transformed paediatric neuroradiology from an obscure science of gas studies and arteriography

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to the vista of imaging it is today. It was a tribute to him that his diagnostic opinion was sought after and accepted around the world for one simple reason - it was the best.

This therefore is a personal recollection of a friend and colleague. I first met DHN in the early seventies. At the time I was looking to invite a paediatric neuroradiologist to a UCT radiology congress. Some European friends suggested his name - it was unknown to me and I wrote explaining that we had a limited budget as I was ignorant of the fact that UCT was his Alma Mater. With typical generosity he replied that expenses did not matter. That started a 25 year friendship. DHN deeply loved the Cape and returned with his family as often as he could. He was proud of his association with UCT and Southern Africa. Professor Jannie Louw had been one of his surgical mentors and he liked to quote his aphorism, "your patient's life is a great responsibility, yours is not, don't get them mixed up".

How can I describe this man? He was powerfully built, had a deep mellifluous voice and a direct look in his eyes. He had exuberant enthusiasm and seemingly boundless energy - a superb lecturer whose presentations were illustrated by stunning images and apt quotations. As testimony to this he was an invited lecturer on more than 300 occasions around the world. He was also an enthusiastic teacher who ran a prestigious training program at the HSC in

Toronto. In North America, radiologists first become board certified after four years, and if they want to further specialise they undertake an extra year fellowship. It was a great honour to be accepted as a fellow in his department and we are grateful that DHN trained at least three members of the Red Cross Children's Hospital staff.

DHN was blessed with a great sense of humour. When I once asked him who did his work when he was away on his numerous travels, his reply, made with a mischievous twinkle in his eye was "the same people as when I am there". This is a testimony to his powers of delegation and his ability as a leader to build up a devoted and competent team.

DHN was a cultivated man, a man of the world rather than a worldly man who was generous both with his gifts and his knowledge. He was a true boulevardier who knew the capitals of the world, the best restaurants and where to find a good tailor.

He was the most sensitive and caring individual I have ever known. He was genuinely interested in people and accepted their personal insecurities in exchange for their trust. He regularly phoned his friends and former fellows to enquire about their welfare, families and current activities. He had the gift of being a good listener as well as a good talker. He took the tides of life at their flood, and he loved the water, whether it was swimming at Muizenberg beach, fishing in the Bay

of Plenty in New Zealand or driving his power boat in the Lake of Bays, his holiday home two hours north of Toronto. His charming Canadian wife Barbara was his companion and anchor. He was a family man, deeply attached to her and to his three daughters, two of whom are married, and he was looking forward to the marriage of the third. To them we send our sincere condolences and sympathy.

Besides his seven text books, numerous publications and awards, he instituted the World Federation of Neuroradiological Sciences and was its first President. He was also deeply committed to a Pan African Neuroradiological Society and assisted Jan Lotz with its first meeting in Cairo. Unfortunately he died before he could attend this event.

We in South Africa have lost a good friend whom time will find difficult to replace. Time is like a perfectly rounded necklace of irregular gems, what is passed and what is to come are one. We in the Radiological Society of South Africa salute one of the brightest gems in that necklace and are proud and grateful to have known him and his friendship.

## BJ Cremin

*Prof Bryan Cremin is the ex-head of Radiology at Groote Schuur and Red Cross Hospitals.*

*Also see Radiology, December 1996, Volume 201, pp 593-594.*