

Obituaries

Tom Waller

General practitioner who helped put harm reduction on the map of British drugs policy

Tom Waller was a campaigning general practitioner who worked ceaselessly for a better deal for people with alcohol and drug problems. In his calm, determined, and persistent way he helped put harm reduction on the map of British drugs policy from the mid-1980s onwards. When harm reduction fell from the policy agenda in the late 1990s he vigorously worked to alert civil servants and ministers to the dangers of ignoring drug related harms, especially HIV and hepatitis C infection.

He worked as a London general practitioner from 1973 to 1988, with a stint as GP trainer and tutor at London medical schools and then lecturer in general practice at University College Hospital/Middlesex Medical Schools. His initiation into problems of drug use came when he was the first medical adviser to the City Road crisis hostel for drug users in London (1978-83). The experience led to the first publication for GPs on treating drug users, *Drug Addiction and Poly-drug Abuse: The Role of the GP*. He joined the Ministerial Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) in 1983. He served on the ACMD working group whose 1988 report *AIDS and Drug Misuse* was the blueprint for the UK response to injecting related HIV infection. The insights in that document, including the view that "HIV is a greater threat to public health than drug misuse," helped support pragmatic public health oriented harm reduction interventions, including syringe exchange and methadone prescribing. These interventions subsequently kept the HIV rate among drug injectors in the United Kingdom at an extremely low level.



In his second term on the ACMD (1993-6) he alerted members to the problem of hepatitis C infection. Often a lone voice, he met with considerable complacency from council members and others who did not understand that hepatitis C was likely to cause greater problems for drug users than HIV infection. In 1993 he co-authored (with Roger Holmes) the first article on hepatitis C virus in the United Kingdom.

From the late 1990s he became increasingly involved with drug advocacy organisations. With the shift of UK drug policy to a focus on crime rather than health (in the first Labour term), and with the appointment of the first UK anti-drugs coordinator (or drugs czar) in 1998, Tom realised that the politicisation of the drugs field required a more organised response.

He was a founder and first chair of Action on Hepatitis C (1999-2002), which was established out of concern at the failure of government to act on hepatitis C. He persuaded a wide range of professionals to join the organisation and worked his way around many civil service departments until, realising that the obstacles were political, he organised questions in the House of Commons and a debate in the Lords. Eventually there was ministerial agreement that hepatitis C was an important issue and the Department of Health developed a strategy for it. That the strategy is now about to be implemented is a fitting tribute to Tom.

He was founding director of the UK Harm Reduction Alliance (2000-2). Disappointed that from 1988 the government drugs strategy had failed to address harm reduction and barely mentioned HIV or hepatitis C, Tom helped write a campaigning document in the style of the government drugs strategy—setting out the need for harm reduction. This received a particularly frosty reception from the Department of Health's senior medical officer for public health. However, Tom must have been delighted that the updated drug strategy in 2002 included a section on harm minimisation.

He leaves a wife, Rosa, and three sons.
[GERRY V STIMSON]

Thomas Arthur Naunton Waller, former general practitioner and county specialist in substance misuse Suffolk (b Leiston, Suffolk, 1944; q London 1979; DRCOG), died from cancer on 27 November 2003.

Derek Herbert Clarke



Former consultant ophthalmologist Gibraltar (b Sittingbourne, Kent, 1926; q Middlesex Hospital, London, 1949), died from a brain haemorrhage on 1 October 2003.

After national service in Holland Derek went into general practice in Sunbury and later Norbury, London. He then trained in ophthalmology and in 1977 went to Gibraltar as consultant ophthalmologist to both the civilian and military population. On returning to the United Kingdom he worked for the Royal Air Force at Biggin Hill, Kent.

He had a lifelong love of music and was an accomplished violin and viola player, belonging to several orchestras and playing chamber music at home. After retirement he took up violin restoration and later violin making. He leaves his second wife, Audrey; two children from his first marriage; and five grandchildren. [JULIAN CLARKE]

 Longer versions of these obituaries are available on bmj.com

Anthony William Inglis Hall



General practitioner Wakefield 1948-58 and assistant medical officer of health Harrogate 1960-82 (b Lancaster 1921; q Cambridge Middlesex Hospital 1944), died from a brain haemorrhage on 6 December 2003.

After qualifying Tony served in the Royal Army Medical Corps with the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Palestine from 1945 to 1947. On his return he entered general practice in Wakefield. Following a brain haemorrhage aged 37 he moved to Harrogate, where he took up the post of assistant medical officer of health. On his retirement he returned to north Lancashire, where he transformed a large rough orchard into a spectacular garden often open to the public. He leaves a wife, Pauline, and three children. [PHILIPPA HALL]

John Duncan Hay



Emeritus professor of child health Liverpool (b 1909; q Liverpool 1933; MD, DCH, FRCP), d 5 December 2003.

John Hay was the first professor of child health in Liverpool. He pioneered the use of cardiac catheterisation in children and built up a team of skilled surgeons and anaesthetists. In 1948 he started the Alder Hey collection of babies' hearts taken at post mortem and by 1999 there were more than 2000 available for study. They undoubtedly played a major role in improving the care of children with heart abnormalities. Predeceased by his wife, Netta, he leaves three children and 12 grandchildren. [ALAN CRAFT]

Malcolm McIlroy

Former cardiologist and pulmonary physiologist San Francisco, California (b 1921; q Cambridge 1944), d 26 October 2003.

During the 1950s Malcolm McIlroy was recruited to join the University of California's fledgling cardiovascular research institute in San Francisco. McIlroy was a pioneer in the

study of cardiac haemodynamics and directed the cardiac catheterisation laboratory at the University of California at San Francisco for many years. He co-wrote a highly successful textbook, *Clinical Cardiology*, which was translated into seven languages. In 1972 the McIlroys purchased a vineyard. They moved there after he retired in 1990 and devoted themselves to producing extremely good wine. He leaves a wife, Margaret; four children; and eight grandchildren. [GRANT DE J LEE, PETER SLEIGHT]

David Leslie Palmer



Former general practitioner Maidstone, Kent (b Sussex 1924; q St Thomas's Hospital, London, 1947), died from ischaemic heart disease on 15 December 2003.

David did his house jobs in Bournemouth and Dorchester. In 1950, after doing general practice locums in Dorset, he joined a long established practice in Maidstone, retiring in 1984. He was a keen gardener and developed an interest in archaeology and history. He leaves a wife, Paddy; two children; and five grandchildren. [ROGER HART]

Barbora Richardson



Former consultant old age psychiatrist Essex (b 1964; q Cambridge 1989), died from an overdose on 22 November 2003.

When Barbora came to England aged 14 she could speak no English. By age 18 she was studying physiology at Oxford before going to Cambridge to read medicine. She completed general practice and then psychiatric training, specialising in old age psychiatry. Barbora was a glamorous, beautiful, 6 ft blonde woman, who had rebuffed approaches by model agencies. Until recently she worked as a consultant old age psychiatrist in Essex. At the time of her death she was writing her doctorate, working as a tutor on the master's course in ageing and mental health, and was a highly

rated undergraduate teacher at University College London [GILL LIVINGSTON, MARTIN ORRELL, CORNELIUS KATONA]

Llewellyn Charles Rutter



General practitioner Wolverhampton 1937-63 and regional medical officer Nottingham 1964-72 (b Newcastle 1907; q Birmingham 1930; DOBst RCOG), died from prostate cancer on 17 January 2004.

Llewellyn turned down the opportunity of a hospital career to spend four years (1932-36) running a Friends (Quaker) hospital in the Lebanon. On his return, he took up general practice. He was active in local medical affairs and was a founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners. In 1964 he moved to Nottingham to take up the post of regional medical officer. In his younger days he was a keen field hockey player. He was a lifelong member of the Society of Friends and a fellow of the BMA. He leaves a wife, Winifred (now aged 100); four children; and six grandchildren. [MICHAEL RUTTER]

Philip Snaith



Former senior lecturer in psychiatry Leeds (b 1933; q Guy's Hospital, London, 1957; MD, FRCPsych), d 28 November 2003.

Philip Snaith was appointed consultant psychiatrist in Wakefield in 1967. He was appointed senior lecturer in Leeds in 1976 and worked at St James's Hospital, with special interests in anxiety disorders, psychosurgery, and gender dysphoria, retiring in 1997. He developed the Irritability, Depression and Anxiety Scale (IDA) and Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HAD). The HAD has been translated into more than 20 languages. He developed and taught anxiety control training, applying it to treat many anxious patients. *Clinical Neurosis* was published in 1981 and 1991, and *Anxiety in Clinical Practice* in 1988. He leaves three children and four stepchildren. [ANDREW SIMS]