

Dr Peter Morris FRCA DObstRCOG DCH DPH

Obituary

Peter Morris was born on 1st January, 1933 in Skegness, Lincolnshire, but at the outbreak of the Second World War was brought to Lancashire, where he was brought up. He qualified in medicine at the University of Manchester in 1956. His early medical career was complex. Following resident House Officer posts at Manchester and Lancaster he completed training posts in obstetrics, paediatrics and anaesthesia, spent a year as an assistant in general practice in Cockermouth and 18 months as a senior house officer in anaesthesia at the Royal Lancaster Hospital. He then became a general practitioner in Lancaster and continued his interest in anaesthesia as a part time clinical assistant at the Royal Lancaster.

By 1964 however, he realized that his real ambition was to be a career anaesthetist and while in general practice passed the primary FFARCS examination. Joining the Manchester training scheme he swiftly moved through the ranks and in May 1967 he was appointed to a consultant post in the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. He was the very first full time paediatric anaesthetist in Manchester and took the lead in setting up a paediatric intensive care unit and developing a range of specialist services for children. Within the University of Manchester he held Honorary Lectureships in anaesthesia and child health.

A gifted teacher, with a wealth of clinical experience and an impressive research history he was an invited speaker at meetings in the UK, Europe, North America, Australia and the Far East. He served on many important anaesthesia and paediatric committees within the Manchester region and his move into wider spheres saw him as a founder member of the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists which included all of the UK figures involved in paediatric anaesthesia at the time. He was Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of this important and influential society and became its President in 1991.

Peter was elected to the Council of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland in 1982. He was identified then as a high flyer

and became Honorary Secretary in 1986. In the same year he became a foundation-member of the new History of Anaesthesia Society, but clearly had to prioritise his time and energy to the Association. There he served with the then President, Professor Michael Rosen, who was a hard taskmaster, but Peter dealt with all of his projects with care and rapidity. When the Association moved out of its small premises at BMA house to its first owned home in Bedford Square, Peter was heavily and physically involved in the move and subsequently the fund raising exercise to complete the transfer. While there the Association introduced many of the “*Glossies*”, booklets that outlined standards for a wide range of aspects of anaesthetic practice. He also organised meetings in different venues and then took on an important role in overseeing the meetings and activities of the large Group of Anaesthetists in Training called GAT – considered to be a better title than its previous name of Junior Anaesthetists in Training or JAG.

At the same time, this busy man became an examiner for the then Faculty of Anaesthetists in 1984 and continued his interest in Faculty, then College examinations for many years, eventually becoming a Chairman of Examiners in 1991. He was elected in 1988 to the Board of the Faculty, which that year became the College of Anaesthetists, again working with Professor Michael Rosen, the first President of that College. In 1991 he became Secretary of the Joint Committee for Higher Training of Anaesthetists. Thus he visited and assessed hospitals throughout the UK for the Hospital Recognition Committee and he also took a close interest in several other small hospitals like that in the Isle of Man. Through 1993 to 1995 he was Vice President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists with all the responsibilities that came with that post.

Once retired Peter was able to pursue his interest in the History of Anaesthesia Society, and he never missed the summer scientific meeting from 2001 until his last illness in July 2016. He was elected to the Council in 2002 and served as President in 2004 to 2006. This period coincided with the Sixth International Symposium on the History of Anaesthesia held in Cambridge, at which he presided with aplomb and humour. An affable but decisive chairman, he had the ability to defuse a quarrel. In 2009 when there was concern about the high cost of storing the Society’s

publications and accumulated books, he kindly resolved the issue by providing space in his garage.

Alistair McKenzie and William MacRae