

## Laurence Fraser Levy

Pioneer of neurosurgery in the developing world



After qualifying in 1945 Laurence Levy served in the Royal Air Force—the beginning of a lifelong interest in flying and, later, gliding—before specialising as a neurosurgeon in New York. He travelled the world as a ship's doctor, performing the first neurosurgical operation in Jamaica and four other countries, before settling in Rhodesia in 1956 as consultant neurosurgeon to the Salisbury Group of Hospitals. For many years he was the only neurosurgeon between Johannesburg and Cairo, often flying long distances to his patients.

Over the next 50 years he contributed immensely to the methods and practices of medicine in the third world, emphasising three main points.

Firstly, he focused on providing quality medical treatment with extremely limited resources and tools in the developing world. Numerous publications highlighted his ideas, but one of his most meaningful contributions is the Harare shunt, a ventricular-peritoneal shunt that could be manufactured cheaply, allowing the many patients with hydrocephalus to have access to a medical solution not otherwise available.

Secondly, he was a highly regarded teacher. In a controversial 2003 *BMJ* article he ques-

tioned the developing world's aspirations to reach first world standards in university education because they cannot compete with the salaries and working conditions that richer countries can provide for skilled professionals, resulting in what he coined the "third world brain drain." He was also committed to continuing medical education, himself taking the FRCS Ed 30 years after gaining the FRCS and submitting only late last year his MD dissertation to University College London.

Thirdly, he was strongly and vocally anti-apartheid and an early supporter of the African leaders striving for independence in Zimbabwe. He frequently treated political detainees, and many of his close friends were key figures in gaining independence. However, the clear mismanagement in later years distressed him.

Laurence was recognised nationally and internationally for his work. Predeceased by his wife, Lorraine, he leaves two sons.

### **Bruce Levy, Malcolm Levy**

Laurence Fraser Levy, consultant neurosurgeon and chairman, department of anatomy, University of Zimbabwe (b 1921; q University College Hospital, London, 1945; MSc, FRCS, FRCS Ed), died from a stroke on 29 May 2007.

## Philip Hopkins

GP pioneer of patient centred medicine

Philip Hopkins' career spanned five decades despite serious illness. He founded the Balint Society and was a founding member of the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Psychomatic Research Society. He pioneered cryosurgery in general practice in the United Kingdom and was elected fellow of the American College of Cryosurgery.

Philip became increasingly interested in the emotional lives of his patients while serving as a graded orthopaedic surgeon in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Egypt during 1946-8. Reprimanded by his commanding officer for sending too many men back home, he often retorted, "I'm not a soldier, I'm a doctor."

On returning to England, he worked as an orthopaedic and then medical registrar. He entered general practice after working as

a locum for a local general practitioner. Just before the formation of the National Health Service he bought a house with a practice of 1400 patients. Impressed by a lecture on "The psychological problems of general practice" given by the renowned psychoanalyst Michael Balint, Philip deepened his commitment to treating the whole person and became a tireless champion of the Balint method. For 25 years he edited the journal of the Balint Society, also publishing many papers and several books on the subject.

His other interests included the Hunterian Society, which awarded him a gold medal for its essay prize in 1954. He was also president of the Medical Practitioners Union during 1960-3, and honorary secretary, treasurer, chairman, and provost of the North London College Faculty of the Royal College of General Practitioners during the 1950s and 1960s. He campaigned for postgraduate courses to be organised by general practitioners. Clinical assistant in two hospitals, he was local divisional police surgeon (1950-70) and an



active member of the Hampstead Medical Society.

In the mid-1970s Philip was diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus. He underwent 17 operations and several times was close to

death. But he continued to expand his practice and developed a new interest in cryosurgery, successfully treating over 35 000 skin lesions. He retired reluctantly in 1991, continuing in private general practice until December 2000. He leaves his second wife, Sue; four children; and six grandchildren.

### **Paul Foster**

Philip Hopkins, general practitioner, founder, Balint Society, independent physician (b 1920; q Guy's Hospital, London, 1943; FRCGP, FACC), died from bronchopneumonia secondary to cerebrovascular disease and neo-oesophageal stricture on 31 December 2006.

**Catherine Louise Chapman (née Chambers)**



Specialist registrar in nephrology Portsmouth Hospitals (b 1973; q Bristol 2000; BSc Hons (Soton), MRCP), died from metastatic breast cancer on her 34th birthday, 15 July 2007.

Catherine's first degree was in psychology. She made deep and long lasting friendships, supporting many others through hard times. A nomadic generalist by inclination, she served as surgeon lieutenant commander RNR, including on HMS *Southampton* in 2002. She had just started her final nephrology training post when the symptoms of secondary cancer developed. During enforced chemotherapy leave she took GCSE history and Open University courses. Her last four years were spent with Dr Peter Chapman, whom she married a few weeks after her relapse was confirmed. She died as she lived: positive and uncomplaining, buttressed by a confident, unostentatious Christian faith. She leaves Peter, her parents, and two siblings.

**Peter Chapman, Jo Chambers  
Timothy Chambers**

**Richard Lewis McCorry**

Former consultant pathologist Ulster Hospital, Belfast (b 1922; q Queen's University, Belfast, 1947; FRCPI, FRCPath), died from a heart attack on 11 May 2007.

Richard McCorry became consultant pathologist at Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh, in 1957, moving to the Ulster Hospital in 1961. He created the training programme for chemical pathology in Northern Ireland, which, through his thoughtful analysis and clear vision, became a gold standard for the specialty with its strong emphasis on clinical and scientific knowledge,

management, and computer skills. In retirement he continued to enjoy hill walking and sailing until curtailed by peripheral vascular disease. He became a member of the Royal Society of Photographers and a competent potter, and he was an extensive reader of literature, science, and philosophy. He leaves two children from his first marriage; his second wife, Marie; and three stepchildren.

**Elisabeth Trimble, Pooler Archbold**

**William Cathcart Moonie**

Former general practitioner Norton-on-Tees (b 1918; q Newcastle 1942; FRCGP), d 21 September 2006. After qualifying William ("Bill") Moonie served in the Royal Air Force until the end of the second world war. In 1945 he joined a practice in Norton-on-Tees and helped to develop a leading primary healthcare team, respected by both partners and patients for his dedication to his work. After retirement from practice he continued to work part-time until he was 70. Bill enjoyed an active social life, loved classical music, was a member of two wine tasting groups, and in his retirement took up fly fishing. Predeceased by his wife, Jeanne, in 1978, he leaves three children and seven grandchildren.

**Anne Stack (née Moonie)  
Geoffrey Marsh**

**Rachel Elisabeth Need**



Former ophthalmologist Berkshire (b 1927; q St Bartholomew's Hospital 1954; DO, MRCOphth), died from breast cancer on 27 December 2006. Rachel Elisabeth Need's medical practice was mainly in ophthalmic work in many different hospitals, including the Western Ophthalmic and the Royal Berkshire. A lover of British heritage, she was a staunch supporter of the National Trust and

the National Arts Collection Fund. She enjoyed needlework and music and sang for a time with the Bart's Choir. Despite living nearly all her life in London and Henley-on-Thames, she had a special love of Cornwall and the Scilly Isles. She leaves a daughter and two grandchildren.

**Katherine Martinez**

**Leon Robinson**



Former general practitioner principal and locum consultant in venereology Liverpool (b 1921; q Liverpool 1947), d 20 January 2007.

Leon Robinson's early career included anatomy demonstrating, national service in the Royal Air Force and the US Air Force, and working as a ship's doctor. He returned to Liverpool, where he began his career as a general practitioner, working in West Derby, Bootle, and Litherland. He obtained a venereology diploma and was offered consultant positions, but he elected to concentrate on general practice, working part time as a locum consultant. For many years, he was also the medical officer of health to the French Consulate in Liverpool. Ill health prompted his retirement at the age of 69, although he worked as a locum until he was 75. He leaves a wife, Eve; three children, and a granddaughter.

**Jessica Robinson**

**David Charles Tennant**



Former general practitioner Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (b 1916; q St Mary's Hospital, London, 1942), d 27 February 2007.

Born in South Africa, David Charles Tennant served as medical officer to a fighter squadron in France, Belgium, and Germany after qualifying. After demobilisation he returned to St Mary's and then moved to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, as an orthopaedic registrar and to the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds as surgical registrar. He then became a general practitioner until he retired. A pioneer of the Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service, he also worked for many years with the Red Cross Society. In retirement he worked for some time at the Jane Furse Memorial Hospital in Lebowa, South Africa. He leaves a wife, Georgina; three children; and nine grandchildren.

**Michael Mackenzie**

**Nicholas John Unsworth**



Former general practitioner Haslemere, Surrey (b 1953, q Cambridge/King's College Hospital, London, 1977; MRCGP), died from deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism on 12 February 2007. Before training for general practice Nick Unsworth's senior house officer posts included a year on the Royal Marsden Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in Sutton, where he later became a patient. He spent 12 years in Canada before settling in practice in rural Sussex, where he also served as medical officer for Brands Hatch motor races. In 2004 Nick had a successful bone marrow transplant for myelodysplastic syndrome. He returned to work, but a devastating sequence of herpes virus infections culminated in his becoming blind. However, at the time of his sudden death he was helping to design a computerised telephone triage system for blind doctors, a project that continues under his name. He leaves a wife, Carole.

**Norman Walford, Carole Unsworth**