

OBITUARIES

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Annabel Nicholson at annabel.nicholson@nature.com. All submitted obituaries should be 450 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 800 words). Content of the obituary is down to the individual author, and the approval of the family should be given for the obituary prior to submission to the *BDJ*.

WILLIAM IAN REES DAVIES

1942–2014



Ian Davies qualified from University College Hospital Dental School in 1964, winning the Alfred Sinclair Medal. After house surgeon positions to the professorial unit, Ian became an assistant lecturer.

He was awarded a Thuron Scholarship to study both physiology and periodontics at the University of Pennsylvania from 1966–69. On his return to UCH he was appointed a lecturer from 1969–71. Ian then was poached by the Royal Dental Hospital School of Dental Surgery, where he became a senior lecturer in periodontology in 1972 and Director of the Department in 1974. Periodontology at 'the Royal' at that time had many accomplished and interesting colleagues, and an active postgraduate course. However, ahead of the successful merger of 'the Royal' with Guys, Ian left to become, in early 1980, the founding Professor of Periodontology and Public Health at the University of Hong Kong. He became the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry in 1983 and served in this capacity for six years, during which period the first undergraduate students qualified as dentists and the first postgraduate candidates were awarded masters degrees. After this successful tenure as Dean, he became progressively more involved in university administration and in advising on dental policy for Hong Kong. Ian also served as the President of the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong 1996–98 consolidating training pathways in the dental specialties. Within the University, he served as Pro Vice-Chancellor from 1991–2000 having many areas of responsibility, as Registrar 1999–2000, and from 2000–02 as Vice Chancellor. Ian thus became one of the very few dental academics to

serve as Vice-Chancellor/President of a prestigious comprehensive, research intensive university. He was awarded Honorary Fellowships, by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (in Dental Surgery), the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. The University of Hong Kong awarded him an Honorary Doctorate, and the first Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region bestowed upon Ian Davies a Silver Bauhinia Star for his achievements over his professional career in Hong Kong. Ian retired in 2003 to live on Ludgate Hill, well able to appreciate the bells of St Paul's, at which he had served as a Wandsman in the 1970s. He maintained links with a wide circle of international colleagues. He sustained a keen interest in the affairs of the University of Hong Kong, which he had steered safely, its Faculty of Dentistry, which he had done so much for since its inception, and the dental profession in Hong Kong, which he had shaped, until his peaceful end this summer.

Esmonde Corbet

ALEX T. INGLIS

1937–2014



and Dentistry (KCSMD) and The United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' (UMDS). Alex was not a King's graduate but was an Old Londoner and one of a significant group that moved from the London to King's. This group, who all became deans or heads of departments at King's, comprised Ian Gainsford, Alex Inglis (in 1979),

Peta Smith, Barry Eley, John Langdon, David Davis and Newell Johnson. Alex was appointed Head of the Department of Restorative Dentistry in 1983 on the retirement of Ivan Curzon. He was appointed Dean of Dental Studies at King's for a period of 12 years from 1987 to 1998 when the merger with UMDS took place. At that stage Frank Ashley was the senior dean of the merged schools and became the first dean of the new Guy's, King's and St Thomas' Dental Institute (GKT). On Frank Ashley's death, Alex became dean of the merged schools and remained so until his retirement at which time he was the longest serving dental dean ever in the United Kingdom. His management style was based on charm, persuasion and loyalty and not on an autocratic style. His achievements were immense. He had staff working harmoniously on three sites, he established a very successful integrated five year GKT undergraduate programme, he introduced team training for undergraduates and was a champion of distance learning making King's one of the leaders in online learning. Perhaps most importantly of all he was able to balance the books during a very difficult phase in the evolution of King's College London Dental Institute.

John D. Langdon