Brian Ernest Dudley Cooke

Emeritus Professor Brian Ernest Dudley Cooke, Founder Dean and Professor of Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology of the Dental School, University of Wales, College of Medicine, 1961-1982, died at his home at Pembroke on 28 September 2007, at the age of 87.

Brian qualified in dentistry at the London Hospital which he left in 1942 to join the Royal Navy Reserve as a Surgeon Lieutenant (Dental), serving in WWII. Afterwards, he completed his medical training. He became Reader in Dental Medicine at Guy's under Professor Martin Rushton, the greatest influence in his career. Brian's private tuition course at his home for candidates for the Fellowship in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons was attended by many post-graduates - it was said that only those who had been on Brian's course stood a chance of passing the examinations!

In 1961, he was appointed as the First Dean and Professor of Oral Medicine of a new Dental School of the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff.

The new Dental School was created as a priority in Wales where severe dental disease was widespread in the pre-fluoridation era and there were few dentists. Brian had to liaise with architects and planners, recruit the first academic and hospital staff and design

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the first degree course. His motivation, hard work, infectious enthusiasm and great integrity made him an effective leader. The resulting Dental School and Hospital have proved a great success and the undergraduate teaching and research are rated highly in national assessment exercises.

Brian was an enthusiastic teacher who inspired his students and many of his staff have gone on to academic and clinical distinction.

In 1948, Brian married Neilla (née Hope) who was a staff nurse at the London Hospital, who survives him. Throughout their 59 years together, Neilla provided the love and support Brian needed in fulfilling all his many responsibilities. They regularly welcomed all staff to parties in their home in Lisvane and entertained visiting examiners and other academics or pathologists. Neilla not only knew the names of all the school staff but those of their families, helping to maintain staff morale at the new Dental School. In retirement, Brian pursued his considerable interests in poetry and literature, philately, furniture making and history of medicine. Their son, Nigel, is now a consultant physician and their daughter, Susan, a nurse practitioner.

D. Murray Walker

Thomas Michael Anthony Heesom

Tom Heesom, who died suddenly on 19 August 2007, aged 70, came from a long line of distinguished dental surgeons. His great-grandfather, James Heesom, was for some years in practice with Thomas Evans in Paris in the late 1860s treating royalty and heads of state.

His father Alan, who practised in Reigate, died in 1955 while Tom was still at Marlborough, so it was logical for him to set up his own practice in

Reigate after graduating from Guy's in 1960. He continued to practise there until his retirement in 1995. Early in his career he developed an abiding interest in preventive dentistry, and pioneered the Children's Preventive Unit.

In 1977 Tom was one of the first dentists from the UK to visit the Pankey Institute in Miami. He was very enthusiastic to bring their high standards to the UK and as a result was a founder member of the Pankey Association UK.

Subsequently a meeting with Skip Truitt led him to explore the world of gnathology, craniofacial orthopaedics, and functional orthodontics. It was his inspiration to form the Functional Orthodontic Support Group and he devoted much time and effort to

Tom spent his life in the pursuit of excellence...

promoting greater understanding and co-operation between those who held differing opinions regarding methods of treatment.

Tom spent his life in the pursuit of excellence. A firm belief that the dental profession should aim to provide treatment of the highest standard underpinned his philosophy and practice, and his enthusiasm and dedication inspired colleagues and patients alike. He loved the countryside and enjoyed travel and walking. He was a keen gardener, a music lover and had a passion for old cars - on which he was highly knowledgeable and a skilful driver. He participated over the years in many events in his veteran, vintage and classic cars.

Tom and Willo, his wife of 40 years, had an enormous circle of friends and were wonderful hosts. Privileged indeed were those able to enjoy generous hospitality in their fascinating home, or accompany him on a motoring adventure.

A fine dentist and a true gentleman, Tom will be greatly missed by all who knew him, in particular Willo, who encouraged and supported him in all his endeavours.

D. G. Stone, J. C. Ferrer