

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jadene Doak at jadene.doak@springernature.com

All submitted obituaries should be 400 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*.



Makhan Bhan

1931–2021

Makhan died on 9 March 2021, following a chest infection and a short fight with COVID-19. He was born in the lovely valley of Kashmir, the first child of Dr Manhoar Nath Bhan, an eminent pathologist. He was the eldest of five children, and as a teenager ruled the roost when it came to competitive outdoor sports. Makhan had a passion for science and was incredibly dexterous, so he decided that his future lay in dental surgery. He was ambitious and set his sights on one of the top universities in India, Grant Medical College, even though it meant having to do additional exams to meet their stringent admission requirements. He studied hard and made the most of the extensive beaches and city life in Bombay. After qualifying in 1957, he began his professional life in the main teaching hospital in Srinagar.

In 1962, he moved to London, leaving his wife, Krishna, and young daughter to follow on after him. After passing his statutory exams, Makhan started working in children's dental health, in Bedworth in the West Midlands. He combined a preventive and restorative approach to improving the oral health of children, whilst working in general dental practice. He settled down to family life with his wife and two children.

In 1975, Makhan built a state of the art general practice in Nuneaton, where he spent much of his working career. Always passionate about his profession, he completed his career in Nottingham, particularly focusing on the oral health of older people.

Makhan is survived by his wife, son, daughter and three grandchildren, of whom he

was immensely proud. At home, he indulged his passion for history and acquired a wealth of knowledge about world history. He also loved reading and watching science fiction, a trait he passed on to his children. He was loved and valued for his razor sharp mind, and kind, loving nature, and will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife Krishna, their children Angela and Neil, and grandchildren Jo, Arun and Eashan.

Angela Bhan



Kamala Mathew

1959–2021

Kamala was an invaluable and unforgettable dental nurse. From 2004–2020, she was based at Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust's Hillingdon Community Dental Referral Service. Whilst there, she worked cordially with many clinicians and support staff including: dentists, dental therapists and hygienists; and specialists in periodontics, prosthodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, paediatrics and special care dentistry.

Initially working in retail, Kamala was drawn to the healthcare field because of the caring and altruistic facets. In 1992, she seized an opportunity to work as a trainee dental nurse at a practice in Ealing. Qualifying in 1994, Kamala went on to work in several practices within West London. From 1999, she worked at Central Middlesex Hospital, assisting the oral and maxillofacial surgery department. Kamala preferred working in more dynamic, multi-professional settings, leading her to join the Harrow and Hillingdon Community Dental Referral Service in 2000.

Kamala welcomed challenges and change. In 1999, she successfully achieved her certificate in Oral Health Promotion from Queen Mary University of London. Afterwards, she eagerly empowered patients and their accompanying parties by providing them with relevant preventive advice, instructions and demonstrations. Kamala was particularly passionate about oral health education. Over the years, she joyfully delivered numerous oral health promotion events throughout Hillingdon within schools, libraries and care homes, amongst others.

Whether it be nursing, decontamination, reception, administrative duties or preparing noticeboards, Kamala was always willing to get involved. She was hardworking, generous and empathetic, always ready to help others. Kamala was also very sociable and talkative, possessing a witty sense of humour; this made her popular with staff and patients.

Kamala was happily married to Thomas. She was also a dedicated sister and a doting aunt. Kamala enjoyed socialising with friends, hosting dinner parties and entertaining others. She loved travelling abroad, going on cruise ship holidays and experiencing different cultures. Kamala also had deep interests in religion and spirituality; she was a devoted Jehovah's Witness and enjoyed preaching, and sharing her knowledge and wisdom with others.

In November 2019, Kamala celebrated 20 worthwhile years working for NHS trusts. Retiring in March 2020, she had several exciting plans for her retirement. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, these plans could not be realised. Kamala sadly passed away from COVID-19 at Ealing Hospital on 29 January 2021. She is missed immensely by her family, friends, congregation, colleagues who worked with her and patients.

Bhaven Modha