

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*.



Jim Ralph

1940–2021

Professor James Patrick Ralph who died in July last year was the son of Mary and Tommy Ralph of Paisley.

Jim was the eldest of five boys who all attended St Aloysius College and was captain of the College in his final year. He enjoyed a three-month Rhodes Scholarship to Canada before progressing to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather to study dentistry at Glasgow University. Following his graduation, Jim worked at the Glasgow Dental Hospital for a few years before taking up an appointment at Berkley University California. On his return, he was appointed a consultant in the Department of Restorative Dentistry at Leeds University where he developed an excellent reputation as a clinician and teacher to both undergraduates and postgraduates. He published, along with his colleague Professor Robin Basker, several textbooks for students and practising dentists. Jim was a visiting Consultant in Dental Prosthodontics at York District Hospital and Scarborough Hospital. Among his many qualifications, he was also a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and was awarded a personal Professorship at York University. He was also awarded a rarely given Honorary Life Membership of the British Dental Association. For many years, he was the Postgraduate Dental Dean at the University of Leeds, responsible for

organising suitable courses for all dentally qualified in Yorkshire.

Away from his professional life, Jim was an enthusiastic cricketer and rugby player and supporter, and many of his rugby-playing friends recall that Jim was the first person, in their experience, to use a gum shield. Unfortunately, he did not master the art of removing the same before making line out calls which generally ended up totally unintelligible. Jim also enjoyed the occasional game of golf with friends and colleagues. He and his family enjoyed many holidays on the North Yorkshire coast and the East Neuk of Fife.

Jim is survived by his wife Valerie, his daughters Christy and Alexandra, and his grandchildren Ella, Adam and Eric.

Tom and Paul Ralph



George Hamill

1954–2021

George died suddenly at home in September 2021. He was born in Greenock and was always proud of his Scottish roots. He moved to Potters Bar with his parents and sister when he was ten years old. He entered the prestigious Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet, learning to play violin and piano. George joined UCH Dental School in 1973. He won various scholarships during his studies qualifying with BDS (Hons), gaining a Distinction in Dental Surgery, in 1977. He was awarded the Sinclair Medal

for Operative Dentistry. In 1978, George won the Evelyn Sprawson Prize for best performance in the LDSRCS (Eng) exam. He was also awarded a Certificate of Merit by the American Association of Endodontists. George then joined the Lupin Practice in Faversham. Two years later, he bought his first practice in St Stephen's, Canterbury, becoming a vocational trainer to many newly qualified dentists. George trained as an orthodontist attending Professor Moss's course in London. Whilst training, he worked part-time in the orthodontic clinic at Canterbury Hospital where the consultant, recognising George's competence, would happily leave him running the clinic. For many years, George was on the committees of the LDC and BDA in the South East. He set up three more practices in the Canterbury area including Chestfield near Whitstable, from where he had recently retired. George worked hard but also liked a break. When his daughters were young, the family would pack the caravan at a moment's notice and, along with the two West Highland terriers, head off for the weekend. A classic car enthusiast, George collected many over the years. He and his wife Sue enjoyed many lovely trips with these, touring France, Switzerland, Italy and the UK, even suffering the occasional breakdown. He was also a train enthusiast, having a small railway layout in his room as a student. George led a full life with much still planned. He enjoyed his retirement spending time with his grandchildren. His funeral was well supported by his many friends and colleagues from Canterbury, his student days and the various car clubs. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Susan Hamill