

# Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Heather Bradbury at [heather.bradbury@nature.com](mailto:heather.bradbury@nature.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*.



**David Adams**  
1930–2023

Dr Adams graduated from Queen's University Dental School, Belfast where he came under the influence of James Henderson Scott in the Department of Anatomy. He interpolated a BSc in Anatomy.

He took up a clinical teaching appointment in Manchester Dental School, moving to Edinburgh in 1962, from where he spent time researching in the USA.

He was recruited in 1965, by the founder Dean, to the new School in Cardiff. He joined before the building was opened and was responsible for developing a new concept in the teaching of oral biology. At that time, 'Anatomy and Physiology for Dental Surgeons' was taught in the pre-clinical years. Dental anatomy as a separate subject was taught in only 10 of the 15 schools in the UK and only five schools integrated partially with clinical studies.

He established a longer course in oral biology which built on the pre-clinical general anatomy and physiology. It became a three-year, laboratory-based course taught by clinicians with a scientific background. It included surgical anatomy, dental anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry. It was unique in the UK and was some 170 hours in duration.

In 1973, he achieved his PhD at the University of Wales. His thesis, using transmission and scanning electron microscopy, studied developing human oral mucosa. He was appointed Reader in Oral Biology and continued to head the Division until his retirement in 1996. His consultant responsibilities were in the care of patients with serious cardiac anomalies.

He was Secretary of the British Division of the IADR and was also an examiner in

the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He enjoyed meeting overseas students and relished travel, especially to Thailand where he helped to establish a new dental school in Songkhla. He was an adviser to the British Council and lectured widely in the Far East.

A new School in Wales meant that traditions needed to be established. He was conscious of the need to relate to students other than in an academic role and was responsible with others in developing events to bring staff and students together. His interests in drama resulted in joint student/staff productions which he planned and directed. More than 25 years after his retirement, he is still remembered by large numbers of Welsh dental graduates whose training he influenced in many ways.

He is survived by his wife and an extended family.

David K. Whittaker



**John Radford**  
1953–2022

John Radford, Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Director of Taught Postgraduate Studies at Cardiff Dental School, died suddenly and tragically on Sunday 20 November 2022, aged 69.

John grew up in Brighton and after training at Guy's Dental Hospital, University of London (BDS, 1976), undertook house jobs in periodontology, preventative dentistry and oral surgery at St Bartholomew's Hospital, then returned to Guy's as a Registrar in Conservative Dentistry. John was a meticulous dentist and skilful clinician.

He gained his PhD in 1987 for his thesis *The influence on diet of dental plaque on the incisor teeth of monkeys (Macaca fascicularis)*.

Following lecturer positions at Bristol and UMDS, John gained a Senior Clinical Lectureship with Consultant Status in Dundee Dental School (1992) and promotion to Clinical Reader (2018). He gained a personal Chair in Cardiff University's School of Dentistry (2021), relocating to Wales. Within a very short time, John became a loved member of the team with his infectious energy and enthusiasm, and a good friend and mentor to many, embracing his job, his role as a leader, and his new Welsh home, joining Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

John's outstanding collaborative teaching, expertise, and empathic care of patients have left a mark on the hundreds of students he taught and patients he cared for. He was an inspirational motivator who rejoiced in his students' successes, possessing the empathy to remotivate and encourage after setbacks.

Being unafraid to embrace controversy and uncertainty, John's drive to develop the profession through thought and critical thinking was at the heart of his teaching. He inspired generations of dental professionals to not just accept what they read and heard, but to make their own judgements.

For over nine years, he edited the *BDJ*'s 'Other journals in brief', synthesising and abstracting over 800 papers, giving them his unique spin. This helped make wider evidence/information on oral and dental health accessible for dentists, and made John one of the most well-read people in dentistry.

John was Honorary Tutor at the University of Ghana Dental School and served for ten years as a Fitness to Practise Panel Member for the GDC. In February 2023, he was posthumously awarded the Guy's, RDH, King's Medical and Dental and King's College London.

John was a great family man and leaves behind his wife Frances, his children Daisy and Tom and grandchildren, Lochlan and Adeline.

David R. Radford, Thomas H. Radford and  
Nicola Innes