

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Heather Bradbury at 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*.



Philip Sutcliffe
1935–2023

Philip died in 2023 following a long period of illness. His childhood in Rochdale and qualification in Leeds, were followed by posts in both places, plus in London and Chicago. He moved to Edinburgh in 1971, where he spent the rest of his professional life. Philip gained national and international recognition for his many academic contributions to paediatric and public health dentistry. He served on the GDC in differing roles (1977–2002), and was President of the British Association of Paediatric Dentistry (1984–1985) and of the Royal Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland (1996–1997).

Philip was appointed Professor of Preventive Dentistry at the University of Edinburgh in 1978 and Dean of Dental Studies in 1988. The years 1989–1994 were dominated by the undergraduate School closure. The conscientious and sympathetic manner in which he conducted this painful and difficult exercise earned the respect and admiration of many. Largely through his endeavours, an academic presence in dentistry was maintained as the Centre for Dental Education of which he became Director in 1994.

Philip was an active member of the East of Scotland Branch of the BDA, serving twice as their President of Council. Following retirement in 2000, he became a Trustee of the BDA Benevolent Fund, then as a member of the Executive Committee being elected Vice President in 2014 in recognition of his outstanding contribution.

Philip's family were always the core of his life; marrying Wendy in 1969, they had two sons and four grandsons.

Philip and Wendy were genial and generous hosts. His sense of humour meant that such times would be full not only of good food, wine and stimulating conversation but also of laughter.

Philip had particular empathy with patients and students, and he undoubtedly influenced those he taught to prioritise the prevention of disease. Faced with difficulties, he showed a single-minded determination to set things right.

His absolute integrity and professional dedication were valued by his colleagues; these qualities, together with an unceasing open-minded curiosity and willingness to learn, informed his life.

Ruth Holt



Louis Mackenzie
1968–2023

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we mark the death of Dr Louis Mackenzie, a distinguished dental practitioner, clinical lecturer, mentor and peer.

Qualifying at the University of Birmingham (1990), he died last December having dedicated three decades to the dental profession. As an Associate at the Selly Park Dental Centre in Birmingham, he shared his expertise and compassion with countless patients.

In 2004, he was appointed as Clinical Dental Tutor at his Alma Mater's School of Dentistry. A trailblazer in dental education, he delivered lectures across various countries and dental disciplines, designing and

developing e-learning materials, and running hands-on courses. This teaching excellence was recognised with the University of Birmingham Award in 2009.

As the Head Dental Officer at Denplan, he continued to shape the future of dentistry using his unique insight and experience, becoming valued by all who worked with him. Here, he curated and co-presented a 'lifelong learning' programme with his typical passion, extensive knowledge and humour. His leadership and dedication were evident in the numerous postgraduate lectures he delivered globally on restorative techniques, minimally invasive dentistry, clinical photography and sustainable dentistry.

Renowned for his altruistic demeanour, he served as a mentor and advisor to many individuals within the dental community. What distinguished him was not only his authentic dedication to the profession's advancement, but also his fervent commitment to inspiring and supporting others.

Colleagues and students alike recall him not just for his professional acumen but also for his warmth, compassion, and generous spirit. Interacting with Louis was more than a professional encounter; it was an uplifting experience that left you feeling better about your own contributions – a testament to the remarkable influence he wielded. Last summer, he was embraced into the fellowship of the College of General Dentistry, showcasing the admiration he holds within the dental world.

Dr Louis Mackenzie's passing leaves a void in the UK dental profession. His legacy will endure as a beacon of inspiration for future generations of dental practitioners. On behalf of the dental community, we extend heartfelt condolences to the Mackenzie family. May he rest in peace.

Brett Duane, Jason Wong, Jo Banks, Ian Dunn,
Henry Clover and Roger Matthews