

OBITUARY

DR HAROLD WILLIAM TRACY JR.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of William Tracy, who died on 30 April from a cerebral haemorrhage at the young age of 46, despite immediate surgery by experts.

Tracy was a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and as a young doctor he served as a Flight Surgeon in the Navy during the Korean War. He joined the Miller Clinic in 1962 and became Medical Director of the Rehabilitation Hospital Charlotte in 1968.

During my Visiting Professorship at Durham University, Tracy asked me to come to see his Spinal Injury Unit, and I was moved by his compassion towards those unfortunate people who were sent to him or, as he put it 'thrown at him', in dreadful conditions from other hospitals. It was his enthusiasm and devotion which inspired his staff and this Unit has made great progress. In addition, he also looked after other severely disabled in his Rehabilitation Centre.

Members of the International Medical Society will remember this friendly and charming man who very much enjoyed attending the meetings of the Society as a full member, with his charming wife. Dr Tracy was a member of the Mecklenburg County Medical Society, the North Carolina Medical Society, the American Medical Association, The North Carolina Orthopaedic Society, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the Southern Medical Society and the International Medical Society of Paraplegia.

Only a few weeks before his death, he was named 'outstanding Physician of the Year' by the Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in honour of his outstanding work in the social rehabilitation of the handicapped.

Our Society has indeed lost an outstanding member. We extend to his wife and his four children our deepest sympathy.

SIR LUDWIG GUTTMANN