



Obituary

Bernard Williams



Colleagues and friends from many disciplines were very saddened by the death of Bernard Williams on the 9th August 1995 after sustaining major injuries when his motorbike collided with a car. Bernard Williams was Consultant Neurosurgeon to the Midland Centre for Neurosurgery and Neurology from 1973 to 1995 with an international reputation for spinal conditions notably syringomyelia where his major and significant contributions will be familiar to readers of this journal Paraplegia. Bernard travelled extensively, contributed chapters to many books and wrote very significant and original research papers. Such was the quality of his work that he received the Casey Holter prize from the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida. At its 1994 meeting in Birmingham, the International Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery also honoured Bernard with the Pudenz prize for his work.

Bernard was born in Stockport, attending the Stretford Grammar School before receiving his medical education in Birmingham University. He started his neurosurgical training at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and after further experience in the army continued further training in London and Birmingham. From 1970 he was Consultant Neurosurgeon in Hull before returning to the Midland Centre in 1973.

Quite apart from his neurosurgical academic achievements, Bernard had a very busy clinical practice and his skill and expertise was sought by many including colleagues. He was a brilliant teacher and many young Neurosurgeons have benefited from his caring and enthusiastic tuition. From his student days throughout his life, Bernard was known for his compassion and great sense of humour. The world is a poorer place without Bernard Williams. He was survived by first and second wife and six children.

Anthony D Hockley