

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Kate Maynard at k.maynard@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 350 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 700–800 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 SMITH



Professor David Smith BDS, MSc, MPhil, DRRRCR, FRCR, DUniv-Open (1931–2010) was professionally best known as Head of the Department of Dental Radiology at

King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry from 1972–1996. But he had many other achievements: serving in the Merchant Navy (1948–1958); Master Mariner (1957); member of the Greater London Council and Inner London Education Authority (1977–1986); Open University Council member (1978–1991) and Civil Consultant to the RAF (1990–1996).

He was a man with great foresight, communication skills and integrity who inspired countless students, many of whom became close friends.

He graduated from King's in 1964 then obtained an MSc in Radiation Physics and Radiation Biology in 1966. After working part-time in dental practice, in 1969 he obtained an MPhil in Radiation Biology and was appointed full-time Senior Lecturer in Dental Radiology at King's; in 1978 he was promoted to Professor.

David developed a one year internal MSc in Dental Radiology in 1975 and in 1990 pioneered the first clinical distance-learning MSc from the University of London, in Dental Radiology; about 150 students from over 40 countries have since been awarded degrees. During the 1980s David was instrumental in setting up the Diploma in Dental Radiology from the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR); the RCR awarded him an Honorary Fellowship in 1997. He published widely, including *Dental radiography* and

Simple navigation by the sun. After a hugely successful and influential career David 'retired' in 1996, but continued working to develop the distance-learning MClintDent in Prosthodontics at King's.

He was President of the British Society of Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology twice (1977/8 and 1985/6): he used his presidency to foster links with colleagues in Europe, and is acknowledged as one of the pioneers behind the formation of the European Academy of Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology - founded in 2004.

David is survived by his wife Mary, son Malcolm and daughter Clare. They know that David was held in very high regard by countless colleagues and will live on in our memories; his influence will last for generations.

B. O'Riordan, L. Brocklebank, E. Whaites

JAMES NEIL SWALLOW



I first met Neil at meetings of the London Society for the Study of Children's Dentistry. Neil always sat in the front row, smoking a pipe and challenging every speaker.

Neil was born in 1931 in Taunton. He gained his BDS from the London Hospital in 1955. He worked at RDH with Peter James before returning to the London, working with such luminaries as Max Horsnell and Geoffrey Slack. He established clinics for children with disabilities at LH and Dr Barnardo's Home, ahead of most British dentists, and frequently went out in the middle of the night to make feeding plates for new-born cleft palate children.

In 1964 he became founding Senior Lecturer in Children's Dentistry at the new Cardiff Dental School. His clinics for disabled adults and children were again ahead of their time. He surveyed and treated psychiatric and sub-normality patients in Swansea and Cardiff.

Neil wrote an MDS thesis on the oral health of people with disabilities. He was an inspiring teacher and co-authored *Child dental health. A practical introduction*, and studied psychology to better understand his patients. In 1975 he was appointed to a chair in Amsterdam, including training dental therapists to treat adults. He introduced the teaching of local anaesthesia for children's treatment and then went to Belfast in 1978, as Professor of Restorative Dentistry, where he established treatment clinics for adults with learning and physical disabilities. On return to England, Neil and his second wife Barbara opened a dental practice at their home. He acted as consultant to the practice and as house husband.

Neil died on 29 April 2010, aged 78. He would have been bemused to see St John the Baptist church, Thaxted, packed with relatives, friends and colleagues. The service was a musical celebration of his life. The words of the Right reverend Bill Ind that 'Neil loved to discuss and debate but he always set out to win' beautifully captured the man. He is survived by Barbara and their children Philippa and Gabriella, and Paul and Karen from his first marriage.

SG

Please note that the following link should have been included with the obituary for W. A. Vale (*BDJ* 2010; 208: 487). Readers can access a full version of W. A. Vale's obituary at <http://semitone440.co.uk/nickvale/obituary.pdf>