

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*.

JOCK PLINT



Jock Plint died on 24 April 2011. For over 20 years, he was head of the Dental Department at Great Ormond Street Hospital: a benign patriarch who cared for sick

children, supervised training for scores of junior staff and managed nurses, secretaries, receptionists and technicians with apparent ease. Jock loved GOS; the children and their parents loved to come and see him. He always saw the best in people. He had special clinical wisdom and an in depth knowledge of sick children gained over many years.

Jock was an early pioneer in cleft lip and palate treatment and research in the UK, helping to establish the national charity the Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA). He was responsible for the introduction of alveolar bone grafting and assisted in the development of the GOSLON Yardstick - an audit tool now used throughout the world.

Jock Plint was born in Cape Town in 1924. After school, he served in the South African Air Force Air Sea Rescue and was awarded the British Empire Medal for bravery. Jock studied dentistry at the University of Witwatersrand where he met and married Moira - a medical student. In the fifties, they came to the UK for further professional training. They returned to South Africa for three years but came back to the UK in 1960 - a move prompted by Jock's distaste of Apartheid.

Jock was consultant orthodontist in Eastbourne, Hastings and Tunbridge

Wells, before being appointed to Great Ormond Street in 1967 where he remained until his retirement in 1989. He was an examiner for the D Orth RCS and External Examiner in the National University of Ireland, Cork. At GOS, he dealt with the complex problems which arise in the management of very sick children with great kindness, tact and reassurance. This was a master class in patient and staff management; he had much to teach his many house surgeons, registrars and senior registrars.

He was a devoted husband to Moira, loving father to Simon and Andrew, and a joyous grandfather. He leaves behind that most precious commodity - a good name.

MLC and MM

JOHN MILLER



John Miller, Emeritus Professor of Child Dental Health at the University Hospital of Wales, died on 9 July 2011. A gifted, kind, generous teacher, he inspired many stu-

dents and was internationally renowned for his contributions to caries research and the understanding of developmental anomalies of tooth development as well as to children's dentistry.

John was born in Chinley in the Peak District, educated at Taunton School and Manchester Grammar School then studied dentistry at the University of Manchester. He did his National Service in the Royal Navy leaving in 1948, marrying Mary Spiers, a nurse, and setting up a general

practice in Congleton. He initially resisted joining the new NHS, as advised by the BDA; patient pressure persuaded him otherwise. He believed that all practitioners were in private practice but choosing to do a certain amount of work for the NHS. In late 1949 he decided to return to university to study medicine and went to visit Professor Wilkinson, the Dean, who persuaded him instead to join the teaching staff at the Turner Dental School where he gained his MDS and DDS. His research focused on children's dentistry and especially the management of caries in haemophiliacs.

In 1961 he was commissioned by the *BDJ* to write their first series on dentistry for children. In 1963 he joined Professor Brian Cooke to develop the clinical training at the dental school in Cardiff, where he remained for his career. He was a pioneer in the development of training of consultants in paediatric dentistry, insisting that Senior Registrars spent time working with paediatricians during their training.

Retiring in 1985 he took up making violins and playing golf. He continued making some exceptional violins (and one remarkable viola!) until 2000 which he gave to friends' children who were budding performers. He was happily married to Mary for 62 years, who predeceased him in December 2010. They had two sons, Ian an engineer in the power industry and Alasdair who followed in his father's footsteps and recently helped establish the Peninsula Dental School.

PJMC and AGM