

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jonathan Coe at jonathan.coe@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 450 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*



Robert (Bob) Yemm

1939–2017

Professor Bob Yemm, who died after a short illness on 15 February 2017, was a distinguished clinician, scientist and teacher. Bob qualified BDS from Bristol in 1961, the same year as his dentist wife, Glenys. In 1965 he gained a BSc honours degree in physiology, also from Bristol, and added a PhD in 1969. He moved to Dundee in 1976 as Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Dental Prosthetics, coming with an established international record as a neurophysiologist. He was an immediate hit in Dundee with students, staff and patients for his calm and reassuring manner. He was promoted to a personal chair in 1984 and led a department with a strong record of combining research and clinical expertise.

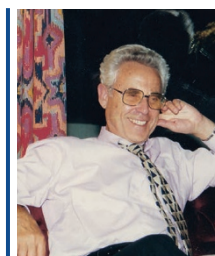
Clinically, he will best be remembered for developing (along with the late Norman Duthie and Ken Sturrock) a technique of reliably producing replacement complete dentures. The replica record block technique revolutionised replacement dentures and is now widely used within primary and secondary care.

Bob served as Dean of the Dental School from 1989–1993 and was efficient, fair and direct. Although Bob was a most gentle person he was able to vigorously defend his department, school or discipline when necessary, and did so effectively. He was honoured to be made President of the BSSPD in 1994/5 and was made a Distinguished Scientist of the IADR in 1992 for his research in prosthodontics. Although always active in pursuing and encouraging research he was perhaps happiest when teaching and treating patients. He was loved by his patients and students for his kindness, care and

great skill. His ability to reassure a nervous student was unsurpassed and many students felt that without his help and guidance they would never have qualified. Bob was also noted as the only member of staff of Dundee University who drove to work in a Bristol car! Occasionally, Bob would forget his pipe was still alight when wandering through the clinic to the amusement of everyone.

Bob retired from Dundee in 1999 but did not leave dentistry completely as he continued to work part time in specialist practice in Glasgow and provided some post-graduate teaching. He and Glenys bought and renovated a possible Alexander 'Greek' Thomson coastal home in Cove, near Helensburgh, where he was able to pursue his great passion for sailing. Bob Yemm, despite his many talents, was a very modest man who was both inspiring and kindly. He will be remembered by many as a person who provided considerable help, both professionally and personally. Our condolences go to Glenys, son Richard and daughter Jane.

J. R. Drummond and J. D. M. Gray



José Balaguer-Morris

1933–2017

José was born in Barcelona and his first memory was of diving under the table to hide from Franco's bombs during the Spanish Civil War. Aged 12, he was taken out of school and sent to work at his uncle's dental lab; his family needed the income. But he loved studying and it was this that finally drove him away from Spain, after he'd automatically failed his first year medical exams because he'd attended a student demonstration. He ended up in London, at the YMCA and with a job as a dental technician on Harley Street, speaking

almost no English. He worked seven days a week and attended evening classes at Ealing Tech for O and A levels. He then applied to dental schools all over the world, including UCLA, which sent a letter back saying, 'At your age most American dentists are thinking of retiring.' But José won a place at Kings College, London and qualified in 1970.

José lectured at Stockholm University's dental school for a year and then became a lecturer and senior lecturer at University College Hospital, London until 1982. He also took over the prestigious Moreton Road practice in Oxford and divided his time between this and his other practice at 90 Harley Street. He had a legendary reputation for clinical expertise and judgement. José's patients included plenty of the rich and famous, but he was never starstruck, always treating everyone with the same interest and kindness. Admittedly, he was rather tickled by one particular claim to fame – being used as an alibi for a suspect in a Colin Dexter novel. This suspect 'between 3.45 and 4.45 had been sitting in the chair of Mr J. Balaguer-Morris, a distinguished and unimpeachable dental surgeon practicing in Summertown.' Luck was never part of the success he achieved. It was built on an amazingly strong desire to be the best he could be, to provide as much as he could for the people he loved and to earn respect from the people he respected – and maybe his Catalan work ethic, humility and winning smile helped!

Travel was a big part of José's life. Having been discouraged from his first interest – anthropology – he always maintained a deep interest in the people and places of the world, grabbing every chance to attend international dental conferences and researching the place and the culture before every trip... to Japan, Mexico, Cuba...

José is survived by his wife, Ann-Britt, daughter, Anna, and two granddaughters.

A. Balaguer and M. Gough