

QUEEN SQUARE ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Number 13

July 1997.

QUEEN SQUARE NEWS:

**DEATHS:** It with sadness that we record the death of DR. ANTHONY HOPKINS, director of the research unit of the Royal College of Physicians. He died after a collapse on March 6th 1997, aged 59.

Although an eminent clinical neurologist, he went on to enjoy a second distinguished career as director of the research unit of the Royal College of Physicians. Here he made a strong impact on improving the quality of health care.

His approach was groundbreaking. He involved colleagues around the country and worked with their professional associations. He skilfully facilitated joint working between the different disciplines, bringing together doctors, nurses, therapists, managers and others in an attempt to overcome previous barriers in inter-professional collaboration. This was seen particularly in work on the healthcare of older people and patients who had suffered strokes. He pioneered the involvement of patients in defining and developing high quality health care.

Borne in Poole, Dorset, Anthony was educated at Sherborne, and went on to study at Guy's Hospital Medical School. He proved an outstanding student, both academically and sartorially, and he qualified as a doctor in 1961.

He specialised in neurology at the National Hospital Queen Square from 1964-72. There was a year at the Mayo Foundation and, more significantly, a year at the Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris as a Medical Research Council exchange scholar. There on St. Valentine's Day, he met his future wife, who was then studying at the Sorbonne. They were married in 1965.

At an early age, he was appointed in 1972 a consultant neurologist at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He was elected to the fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians in 1976 and rose to become the physician in charge of the Department of Neurological Sciences from 1976 to 1988.

Two themes emerged early in his research which were later to put him far ahead of his time; he valued the views of patients on their illnesses and their health care: and, he saw the need for a broader approach to improving medical care. His foremost characteristics were his compassion, thoughtfulness and understanding. His flair for gardening, which had been apparent from early childhood, was perhaps reflected in his skill for bringing on people. He could spot talent and was generous in his support, particularly when he detected a glint of enthusiasm and commitment. This stood him in good stead in his second career.

Unexpectedly, this began when he succeeded Sir Cyril Clarke as director of the research unit of the Royal College of Physicians in 1988. Here he made his most lasting contribution. Although academic colleagues might have looked askance at the unit which had neither laboratories, staff, an academic career structure, nor patients under its care, Hopkins believed that he could attack the perennial problem that much medical research is not put into practice.

An enduring memory for many people will be a working lunch in his office overlooking Regent's Park or at his club - the Garrick. In such gatherings, he would tactfully but incisively, cut through any waffle to get to the heart of the matter. He had a particular ability to link what clinical colleagues were saying to him about the health service with policy matters at a national level. This intellectual rigour was widely valued at the many key national committees of which he was a member.

Hopkins wrote prolifically. Among many influential texts are the reports and books of his unit on the quality of healthcare. He was particularly proud of his textbook. **Clinical neurology: a modern approach** (1993). He was keen on information technology but not for his writing - a computer was never seen on his leather topped desk. Like many doctors, his handwriting was characteristic and his annotations of a manuscript would often wind right around the page - sometimes twice.

There was an important international dimension to Hopkins' work, also. He worked jointly with European and American professional organisations. He was in demand as an international speaker at conferences and had recently returned from Mauritius where he had been acting as a special adviser to the World Health Organisation.

However he understood the balance between work and leisure. He loved the sea and bought a 35ft yacht, Fluidity. He also liked skiing, and practically every year his tall dark distinctive figure would be seen swooping down the slopes, but always making courteous way for any who crossed his path.

He leaves his widow, Elizabeth Ann Wood, and three children.

**CONFERMENT OF TITLES:** The University of London has conferred titles on the following:

Dr. Niall Quinn	Professor of Clinical Neurology
Dr.A.J.Thompson	Reader in Clinical Neurology
Dr. D.R.Fish	Reader in Neurology & Clinical Neurophysiology
Dr.K.J.Friston	Reader in Imaging Neuroscience
Dr. K.Bhatia	Senior Lecturer in Clinical Neurology

**HONOURS AND AWARDS:**

**Professor C.D. Marsden** delivered the Norman Geschwind Memorial Lecture on 28th May 1997 in Boston and was presented with the James Parkinson Award by the Parkinson's Disease Foundation of the U.S.A. on 2nd June

**Professor Ian McDonald** has been appointed the Harveian Librarian at the Royal College of Physicians from the 1st August 1997; he has been awarded the Josef Wolf Senior Prize for research into Multiple Sclerosis; **Professor Richard Frackowiak** was awarded the 1997 Feldberg Foundation Prize for Anglo-German Scientific Exchange, and the Fondacion Ipsen Prize for 1997; **Dr. T. Revesz**, Senior Lecturer in Neuropathology, has been accorded the status of Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Neuroscience and Neuropathology at the Institute of Psychiatry from 1st April 1997; **Professor C. J. Mathias** and **Dr. A. J. Thompson** have been invited to become corresponding members of the American Neurological Association.

#### OTHER NEWS:

#### SWITHIN MEADOWS LECTURE:

**Professor W. Ian McDonald** gave the Second Swithin Meadows Memorial Lecture, entitled "Physicians, Subsequence and Consequence" at the Royal College of Physicians as part of the European Neuro-ophthalmology Society Meeting, on 28th May 1997.

#### ANITA HARDING MEMORIAL LECTURE:

The first Anita Harding Memorial Lecture was given on 7th May 1997 by Professor Anne Young, Harvard Medical School, entitled "Huntington's Disease and Related Triplet Repeat Disorders: a tribute to Anita Harding. This was also the occasion when the portrait of Anita was formally dedicated; it is hung in the Gilliatt Lecture Theatre.

#### ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH NEUROLOGISTS VISIT TO SYDNEY IN JUNE

Although it had not been possible to find a slot for a QSAA reception, the ABN was received with great warmth by the Australians and it was felt to be one of the most successful joint meetings that the ABN has enjoyed.

#### AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY MEETING APRIL 1997 IN BOSTON

An Alumnus Reception was held during this meeting and was a convivial and well attended function.

#### NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA SATELLITE MEETING AT QUEEN SQUARE 1st April 1997.

About 75 Neurosurgeons from the USA attended this very successful meeting and it is hoped that as a result we may see an increase in membership of the QSAA from American Neurosurgeons.

#### EUROPEAN NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING IN RHODES JUNE 1997

Professor Milonas, Conference Chairman, arranged a dinner for Queen Square Alumni during the Conference. This was well attended and enjoyed by all those present.

WORLD CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGY MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES  
IN SEPTEMBER 1997.

You will already have received details of this meeting, but to remind you about the arrangements for the QSAA Reception the following applies:

There will be an informal cocktail and social get together at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday September 18th at the Salon Aguila on the 24th floor of the Buenos Aires Sheraton Hotel. It will last about one and a half hours and is sponsored by Parke Davis Laboratories. Dr. Manuel Somoza is kindly arranging this event, and it would be helpful if you could let him know if you intend to be present. His Fax number is (54-1)802 9098, and E-Mail is postmaster@drsomo.sld.ar.

**QSAA NEWS:**

**DEATHS:** It is with sadness that we record the death of **Dr. D. Bennett** shortly after he retired from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in January 1996. He was Visiting Professor at the Institute, and is remembered with admiration and affection.

**OTHER NEWS:**

**Dr. Moon Keen Lee** has been appointed Editor of **Neuroscience Malaysia**, the Newsletter of the Malaysian Society of Neuroscience. This appeared for the first time in October 1996; we wish her every success.

**Dr.S.K.Das** from Calcutta was awarded a one year Fellowship in Movement Disorders at the University of Calgary.

**CHANGHUA CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL**

We have had considerable numbers of Taiwanese postgraduates sent to us over the years from the above hospital through the good offices of Dr. David Landsborough. It is their Centennial Celebration this year and we would like to offer them our sincere congratulations.

**CERTIFICATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE QSAA**

This is now ready, and looks very attractive. The cost, to include postage and packing, is £10 and only sterling or Euro cheques can be accepted. If you wish to purchase a certificate, which will be signed by the President and Chairman of the QSAA, please write direct to Mrs. Janet Townsend. Assistant Secretary for Students, Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG. Please make sure you state exactly how you wish your name to appear on the certificate, and whether you wish your degrees included, and if so what they are.

I hope you all have a good summer. Please keep your news coming in for the Alumni News section of the Newsletter.