Jeff Cream

It is with great sadness that the BAD notes the death of Dr JJ Cream on Tuesday 8th January aged 70.

Jeff Cream was born in Salford, the son of a watchmaker. He was educated at Salford Grammar School and the University of Manchester, qualifying in 1961. After House jobs at the MRI and Withington Hospital and some training in pathology he did general medicine in Cardiff, obtained his MRCP in 1965 and took up a research post in haematology at St Thomas’. He became interested in Dermatology and was appointed Registrar to the Skin Department. He did SR jobs at St John’s and the Middlesex Hospitals before being appointed Consultant in Croydon in 1972. Three years later he was appointed to the staff of the Charing Cross Hospital (with sessions at West Middlesex) as a colleague to Dr Oliver Scott. He retired in 2002 but continued to do much valued locum work at the Cross, at Chelsea & Westminster and at Queen Mary’s Roehampton.

Medicine and work were very important. He was a consummate clinician, painstaking and exhaustive in differential diagnosis and investigation. These ‘physicianly’ skills were recognised by others so he was often consulted by colleagues when they or their families were ill. His gentle and compassionate solicitude was recognised and appreciated by all of his patients. Jeff had a lifelong commitment to dermatology and was appointed Registrar to the Skin Department. He did SR jobs at St John’s and the Middlesex Hospitals before being appointed Consultant in Croydon in 1972. Three years later he was appointed to the staff of the Charing Cross Hospital (with sessions at West Middlesex) as a colleague to Dr Oliver Scott. He retired in 2002 but continued to do much valued locum work at the Cross, at Chelsea & Westminster and at Queen Mary’s Roehampton.

Jeff Cream was a quiet and unassuming man who was interested in ideas and other people. His recreations were classical music and reading, particularly modern history and American crime fiction. Even those who had known him for many years would rarely have heard him speak unprompted about himself or his own family but to them he was devoted and a stalwart. He met his wife Naomi at MRI. She supported him unstintingly in his career and through the vicissitudes of his illness. The BAD extends its condolences to her and their three daughters at this time of mourning.

Abe Guz, Emeritus Professor of Medicine CXHMS, CXWMS and ICSM summed up Jeff Cream better than I can. He was “a much loved, kind and courageous colleague, who did not change over the years. He was the best of us all”.

Chris Bunker
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital