

Robert Sutherland Chapman

Born 04.07.1938 Cults, Aberdeenshire Died 05.12.2003 Glasgow

Robert Chapman (Roy) entered medical school in 1957 having been joint first bursar in medicine at Aberdeen University in the previous year. This followed on his primary and secondary education, which was of equal distinction having been dux of the school throughout. He graduated from Aberdeen University with honours in 1962 and his early medical career was spent in Aberdeen, beginning a Carnegie research fellowship in *Materia Medica* in 1963 after his pre-registration year. He was involved with general medical duties but particularly worked on thyroid disease and also looked after patients with a carrier state of salmonella typhi. He was awarded the MRCP (Edinburgh) in 1965 and in 1966 began his Dermatology career.

This was also based in Aberdeen with responsibility at the clinics in Woolmanhill Hospital, inpatient care at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and paediatric clinics at the Royal Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children. Outlying clinics were held in Elgin, Buckie, Banff, Huntly and Peterhead. His mentors in Aberdeen were Thomas Anderson and Robert Main and he clearly developed an enthusiasm for his chosen subject. He was awarded the MRCP (London) 1967.

In 1969 he was appointed senior registrar at the Middlesex Hospital in London, with Clinical Assistant responsibilities at St John's Hospital for diseases of the skin then based near Leicester Square. He worked with Dr Frances Bettley and Robert Meara and had the privilege of being involved with Professor Charles Calnan at St John's at the epicentre of Dermatology training.

After only seventeen months in London he was appointed Consultant at Stobhill General Hospital in the North East of Glasgow, beginning that post in

February 1971. At that time the hospital boasted forty Dermatology beds, twelve of which were for paediatrics. His responsibility was to Stobhill and also to the Forth Valley where he travelled to Falkirk and Alloa to conduct clinics on a regular basis.

After his arrival at his Consultant post he and his fiancée, Rosalind Slater, were married in April 1972. They had three children, all of whom have excelled themselves in their own chosen field, his eldest Janet being a general practitioner.

Roy was not always comfortable with the changes in the health service over the next 25 years, but adapted as best he could to the continuing withdrawal of support as he saw it for the Dermatology patient. From 1983 he was responsible for the administration of the department in Stobhill. He was a disciplinarian asking for standards similar to those he set for himself and so he was a hard act to follow. In all dealings with colleagues and junior staff he was scrupulously fair and extremely helpful in training and teaching at all levels. He was sensitive to the needs of struggling juniors, particularly those who were away from "home" and was supportive at all times. Roy was scrupulously honest and everyone knew exactly where they were with him and what he thought about what they said, did and indeed how they dressed!

Ultimately the inpatient department at Stobhill closed in 1996, and with the beginning of Trust administration of NHS services he no longer visited the Forth Valley area but concentrated all his efforts in the Stobhill outpatient service.

Sadly he was pre-deceased by Rosalind his wife in November 1997 but continued to work with as much energy



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and enthusiasm as previously. After retiring in August of 1999, the Trust could not manage without him and he returned to work as a locum part-time until such time as the service could be adequately supported. He re-married to Gladys in August 2000.

In the summer of 2002 he became ill and was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in April 2003.

It had been Roy's intention to pursue during his retirement his interests in all things Scottish, particularly the history of his family, of whom he was immensely proud, and to travel. He continued to work until June 2003 and finally stopped when he was sixty-five despite the disability incurred by the motor neurone disease. Sadly his ambitions for his retirement were not to be. His last illness was mercifully of short duration and he died from complications of motor neurone disease on the 5 December 2003. He leaves his second wife Gladys, his daughter, two sons and two stepsons.

Dr A Forsyth

Glasgow