Dr Charles Patrick Long
29 May 1923 – 1 November 2001

Former Consultant Dermatologist at East Glamorgan General Hospital and the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, 1965–89 (b Cork 1923, q 1950) died 1 November 2001 from malignant melanoma.

Charles Long was born in Douglas, County Cork in 1923, the youngest of five children. He attended Douglas National School and later the North Monastery Secondary School in Cork City. In College he was a keen oarsman and rowed for UCC and for Cork Boat Club. He qualified in 1950, and after House jobs in St Finbar's Hospital, Cork and in Dublin worked for a short time in Nottingham before specialising in Dermatology, originally working in The Skin Hospital, Birmingham and later at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. He was appointed Registrar in the Department of Dermatology, Cardiff Royal Infirmary in 1954. He continued his Dermatology training in Cardiff and was appointed Consultant Dermatologist on 4 November 1964 (the Feast of St Charles) and worked at East Glamorgan General Hospital, Cardiff Royal Infirmary, (later at the University Hospital of Wales) and Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. Inpatients with severe skin disease were admitted to Tonteg Hospital. Dr Long also ran Out-patient Clinics in Mountain Ash, Aberdare and Caerphilly Miners' Hospital. He also had a large private practice with consulting rooms in his home and his wife Rita acting as receptionist.

His clinical work was characterised by his sense of humour, and by his kindness and devotion to his patients and colleagues. He was an enthusiastic lecturer and enjoyed teaching Medical Students, Nurses, Postgraduates and others. His lecturers were enlivened by many anecdotes and personal reminiscences. In one Out-patient Clinic the nurse called the next patient, "Jones", and a couple entered the consulting room. The man sat at the desk and the woman sat at the far side of the room. The man seemed reluctant to show the rash on his genitalia and the woman became increasingly uncomfortable. When asked by the nurse if she would like to wait outside during the examination the woman hastily exited with the nurse. The nurse returned in stitches of laughter; the man and woman were unrelated but did share the same surname.

He was a keen member of Cardiff and Rhondda Medical Societies and was President of the Rhondda Medical Society in 1984. Dr Long retired from NHS practice in 1989 but enjoyed returning as a locum to his old hospital for several years afterwards. He continued to teach and continued working in private practice until a few months before his death.

He was a keen sailor and spent every summer holiday for the last thirty years of his life holidaying with his family and sailing in Baltimore, West Cork. He is survived by his wife Rita and five children, one a Consultant Dermatologist, and seven grand children.

Dr Colin C Long

Charles Long

Charles Long was a kind and hardworking colleague who single-handedly provided a dermatology service to a vast swathe of the South Wales valleys. His humour was well renowned; even now, 13 years since he retired from the NHS, at the mention of his name in any medical company no one can resist re-telling yet another of his witty anecdotes. You always knew when Charles was teaching by the gales of laughter that invariably came from the seminar room: we were lucky to have his help with teaching our students long into his retirement. Charles was very caring of his patients from whom he engendered great loyalty and affection. He was also very sensitive to the needs of junior staff and I remember with gratitude his thoughtfulness to me when I was a registrar.

Charles' dermatologic potential was spotted by the late Dr Robert Warin who was Charles' boss when he was a dermatology SHO in Bristol in the 1950s. A reference from Dr Warin reads '...he is a very willing, helpful person ....he always carried out his work carefully and thoroughly.....I have enjoyed having him as my House Physician': Colleagues enjoyed working with Charles for the rest of his career.

Professor Andrew Finlay