

Tributes



James Neil Swallow BDS MDS

James Neil Swallow, known as Neil, died on 29 April 2010 at the age of 78. Neil's name was synonymous with paediatric dentistry for dental students of my generation. He authored the archetypal paediatric dentistry textbook that many people may remember – *Child Dental Health. A practical introduction* by PJ Holloway, JN Swallow and GL Slack. At a time when there was very little interest in the oral health of people with a disability, Neil established clinics for children with disabilities at the London Hospital and at Dr Barnardo's Home, and consulted for the Bobaths at their London centre for children with cerebral palsy in the late 1950s and early 1960s

In 1964, Neil was appointed as the founding senior lecturer in Children's Dentistry at the then new Cardiff Dental School. There he established a teaching programme in Paediatric Dentistry (using role play to help students understand patients' and parents' experiences); he developed a dental service for both children and adults with a disability and in 1967, he published his MD thesis on the oral health of people with disability. The Wednesday morning clinics were famous in the dental school with up to 200 patients of all ages and with all types of disability and/or medical conditions booked in and as many staff and final year students as were available providing their dental treatment.

In 1975, Neil became Professor of Paediatric Dentistry at the University of Amsterdam where he continued the tradition of providing oral care for children and adults with disability. He taught the undergraduates that, contrary to general belief in Holland at that time, the use of local anaesthesia assisted the delivery of children's dentistry with the benefit that children stopped crying and were easier to treat. He established a community based

clinic in the old part of Amsterdam where the dental therapists he trained provided children's dentistry. Around 1980 he was appointed to Professor of Restorative Dentistry at Belfast Dental School, once again establishing a comprehensive dental service for people with disability.

On return to England, Neil and his wife Barbara opened a dental practice in their home. Barbara ran it while Neil acted as a consultant to the practice and house husband to Barbara and their two children.

Although a paediatric dentist by repute, Neil was one of the founding fathers of Special Care Dentistry and I was fortunate enough to work with him in Cardiff and Amsterdam. He influenced the career direction of many undergraduates and newly qualified dentists, and amongst them were myself and Sue Greening.

Neil was a man ahead of his time and like many trailblazers his innovative ideas were not always appreciated until much later. His funeral service was a musical celebration of his life. The Right Reverend Bill Ind spoke fondly of Neil. His words that 'Neil loved to discuss and debate but he always set out to win' brought back warm memories of Neil running intellectual rings round some people, all the time with a mischievous twinkle in his eyes.

Janice Fiske



Liana Zoitopoulos

Dr. Liana Zoitopoulos was born in Athens, Greece however, due to her father's long-standing professional commitments in Liverpool, Liana received both her primary and sixth form education in the city before studying at Liverpool University, receiving her Bachelor of Dental Surgery in 1980.

Following qualification, Liana embarked upon a career in the Community Dental Service, initially as a vocational trainee in the Cheshire Area Health Authority Community Dental Service and then taking up a dental officer position in Halton. Liana's career progressed rapidly and within five years of qualification she became Assistant

District Dental Officer for Halton in 1985. During her time in this position, Liana studied for and successfully completed her Master's degree in Community Dental Health at the University of Birmingham.

In 1992 Liana became the Head of Community Dental Services for the King's Dental Institute and over the next 18 years was responsible for transforming the service from a traditional community dental service to the Department of Community Special Care Dentistry, providing comprehensive oral health care to a wide range of complex patients in a variety of clinical settings.

Liana was recognised as a Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry in 2000 and was appointed as a Consultant in the Department of Community Special Care Dentistry at King's in 2002. She then went on to complete her PhD in 2004 and became an Honorary Senior Lecturer at King's in 2005. Well respected for her clinical leadership Liana was instrumental in introducing many service developments over the years including, amongst many others, the development of an Infant Preventive Dental Scheme for children with complex needs under 5 years of age and successfully obtaining the contracts to provide dental services for three London prisons.

Liana was also an enthusiastic teacher and introduced Special Care Dentistry outreach undergraduate teaching for year 4 and 5 students at King's and also community outreach placements for dental therapy students. Liana had a keen interest in postgraduate dental education and established a number of highly regarded training posts within her department, including vocational training, MFDS training and, more recently, one of the first specialty registrar training posts in Special Care Dentistry. Liana was heavily involved in the organisation and delivery of postgraduate courses for the British Dental Association, the Advisory Committee for Community Dentistry, the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry and the National Association of Prison Dentistry, an association she was instrumental in founding and for which she was the inaugural President.

Liana worked tirelessly on behalf of Community Dentistry, Dental Public Health and Special Care Dentistry at local, regional, national and international levels. She sat on numerous influential committees and working groups including the Central Committee for Community and Public Health Dentistry, the Advisory Committee for Community Dentistry, the Inspections and Recognition Committee for the Royal College of Surgeons of England and BASCD Council. She was also a member of the Department of Health's Valuing People's Oral Health Working Party and contributed to the BDA working party on the development of the BDA Case Mix Tool.

In recognition of her work Liana received honorary Fellowships from the Faculty of Dental Surgery of both the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, a Roll of Distinction

Award from the British Dental Association and had also recently been installed as the President of the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry.

Liana Zoitopoulos was a truly unique individual within the world of Community and Special Care Dentistry who will be remembered by her colleagues as an insightful clinical leader, an enthusiastic educationalist, an astute politician, and a generous and inspiring mentor whose contribution to the profession was immense. For those who knew Liana well she will also be remembered as a loyal and dear friend.

Rob Hale