



5 & 6

The Royal Society of Medicine

The Virtual Wall of Honour

Panels 5 & 6

Panel 5

	Dates	Honoured by	Testimonials
Dr Charles Harold Edwards FRCP	1913-1996		
Professor Robin Eastwood FRCP	1938-		
Dr Geoffrey Dowling MD			
Dr Kenneth Arthur Day FRCPSYCH	1935-2008		
Dr Tommy Bouchier Hayes RAMC	1937-2002		
Mrs Santokben J. Bhundia	1927-2006		
Mrs Phyllis Asplet	1900-2002		
Dr Philippe R. Asplet MBE	1900-1989		
Dr Daniel Nee Annan BA	1907-1972	Mr Henry Annan	Read testimonial
Dr Charles J. Grosch OBE	1901-1976		
Dr Jan Fairclough Hofmeyr MBBS	1955-1994		
Dr Frederick James MD	1920-2013		
Dr Sikandar Hayat Kamlana FRCPSYCH	1946-		
Dr Andrew C. Liddle MFDM	1954-		
Dr Brian Thomas Marsh DOBST	1936-2004		
Dr John Charles McEntee FRCP	1900-1969		
Mrs Margaret Myles RGN	1937-2008		
Ms Diana Northover SRCh	1960-		
Mr Maung Nu FRCS	1927-2002		
Dr Marylyn Poynter LDS RCSI	1952-		
Professor Natesan Rangabashyam FRCS	1933-		Read testimonial
Professor John Shillingford MD	1914-1999		
Mr Mark J. Stipanovsky	1968-		
Mr Michael Tyler FRCS	1965-		
Dr Shelagh Tyrrell DM	1922-1985		
Captain Herbert Hamilton McGibney	1923-1999	Dr David McGibney	
Dr Nathan Dembovitz MBBS	1915-1955	Dr Alyson J. Elliman	Read testimonial
Professor Kazuo Komamura MD	1956-		
Mr John E.A. Wickham FRCS	1927-	Mrs Ann Wickham	Read testimonial
Dr Kantilal Chaturbhai Patel FRCP	1928-2002	Dr Nikunj Patel	
Professor Kais Kubba FRCOG	1933-		Read testimonial
Dr Jack Fieldman MB CHB	1903-1983	Dr George Fieldman	Read testimonial
Mr Jeffrey Hyde FRCS	1935-	Mrs Glenda Hyde	
Dr Jenny Tyrrell FRCPCH	1952-2012	Commodore Patrick Tyrrell	
Mr Gerard McLoughlin FRCS			
Dr B.A. Young FRCP	1904-1989	Miss G.J. French	
Dr Ivan M. Wedgwood	1923-2003	Dr Jonathan Wedgwood	
Dr Alan M. Edwards FRCPSYCH			
Professor Geoffrey Driscoll OAM	1947-	Jan Driscoll	
Sergeant James Patrick O'Brien Shaffrey SRN	1906-1941	Mr Russell Shaffrey	

Dr Ruchi Bhatt Dass BDS	1982-
Mrs Dorothy R. Cox RN	
Mr Ethan Keeble	
Professor Neville Butler FRCP	1920-2007
Professor John C Stevenson FRCP 1948-	1948-

Panel 6

	Dates	Honoured by	Testimonials
Professor M.S. 'Sam' Eljamel FRCS	1957-		Read testimonial
Professor John Dundee OBE	1921-1991		
Dr Alfred Guy Chappell OBE	1931-2008		
Dr Albert Lindsay Cairns FFOM	1925-2000		
Sir Charles Alfred Ballance FRCS	1856-1936		
Professor Anthony P. Adams FRCA			
Mr L. Wynn Houghton FRCS	1900-1993		
Sir Godfrey Hounsfield FRS	1919-2004		
Dr Kathleen Huntington MB	1921-2006		Read testimonial
Professor John T. Ingram FRCP	1899-1972		
Mr M.N.D.P. Jayatilaka FRCOG			
Professor Leslie P. Le Quesne CBE			
Professor Lai-Meng Looi FRCPATH	1950-		
Dr Anne Mathieson MBChB	1925-		Read testimonial
Dr Judy E.C. McArdell PhD	1956-2010		Read testimonial
Sir John Parkinson MD	1885-1976		
Dr Joanna J. Peterkin MD	1958-		
Ms Libby Reyneke RN	1934-2007		
Mrs Rashida Shakoor	1935-2008	Dr Sameena Shakoor	Read testimonial
Dr David Smallbone MBChB	1938-		
Professor Alain Townsend FRS	1954-		
Dr C. Gordon Van Arman	1917-2002		
Dr Constantin T. Vasilescu FRCSED	1933-2006		
Professor Nils Emil Wadstein MD	1863-1943		
Dr Nils Torsten Wadstein MD	1901-1953		
Dr Dennis James Dale	1927-2011	Mrs Helen Dale	
Dr Jonathan Richard Pedder FRCPSYCH	1937-2010	Mrs Susan Pedder	
Dr Sharif Mohamed Anwar Hussain FRCP	1938-2009	Mrs Fatima Hussain	
Dr Pamela Fox-Russell DPH	1926-		
Dr Nesta Mary Heard Low Nee Tullis	1932-2012	Dr Christopher Low	
Mr Robert A.P. Fitzsimons FRCS	1892-1978	Dr Judith Hockaday	Read testimonial
Mr Joseph Lister Beck	1912-2000	Dr Jane Richards	
Miss Kitty Quinn CNR	1914-1958		Read testimonial
Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya	1860-1962	Dr Venkataiya Rangaswamy	Read testimonial
Dr Mary Patricia Fitzsimons DIH	1904-1995	Judith Hockaday	Read testimonial

Dr Andrew Davis FRCPE	1928-2013	Andrea Johnson and Andrew L. Davies
Dr Charles M. Poser FRCPE		Read testimonial
Dr Dave Edmond Lounsbury FACP		
Dr Ian Lindsay Cairns FRCP	1952-	
Mr Kenneth Edward Faulds		
Dr Vernon E Oxley FRCP FRCPPath	1947-	
Mrs Christine P Oxley JP	1947-	

Panel 5 - Testimonials

Dr Daniel Nee Annan BA

I chose to honour my father, Dr Daniel Nee Annan. My father trained as a doctor at Cambridge and Barts, qualifying in 1937. On his advice, I followed him to both educational institutions. He was an inspiration to many through his numerous contributions to society and his support of charitable causes.

Mr Henry Annan

Daniel Annan matriculated at Selwyn College in November 1931. He was enrolled for a degree in medicine and surgery and after passing the initial examinations in 1932, and he also gained a Class III in the examination for psychology in the Easter term of 1934. He was then awarded his ordinary BA degree in June 1934. According to the notes in the Register he then continued his studies and apparently passed further examinations in medicine and surgery between 1934 and 1938.

Harry Blutstein (29 July 2013)

Professor Natesan Rangabashyam FRCS

Eminent surgical gastroenterologist, surgeon and teacher, N. Rangabashyam, died peacefully in his sleep in his home in Chennai, early on Sunday (July 2013).

He was 79, and is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. Dr. Rangabashyam was a pioneer in the field of surgical gastroenterology and proctology in India and was respected by many in his profession as a senior colleague, an excellent teacher, a guide and even an inspiration for many young students of medicine.

Feted for his achievements by reputed institutions across the world, Dr. Rangabashyam began his illustrious career at one of Tamil Nadu's premier medical colleges — Madras Medical College. He was first appointed as Professor of Gastroenterology in India in November 1974, was the first person to start a separate department for Surgical Gastroenterology and went on to head it. He also started the first to start the M.Ch. (Surgical Gastroenterology) degree course in India.

In fact, he is the claimant to many such firsts in the field of his choice: ostomy department, enterostomal therapy diploma for nurses, reputedly, the first to introduce staplers in surgery in the country, perform laparostomies, and one of the pioneers of hepatobiliary surgery in the country. His contributions on Colitis, Bowel Cancer, and other gastro-intestinal cancers, portal hypertension and bowel disease in the tropics have had a major impact, other experts in the field acknowledge.

With over three decades of experience in teaching at the undergraduate and post graduate levels, he has contributed chapters to the *Oxford Textbook of Surgery and in the Recent Advances in Surgery* series. He is credited with playing a key role in bringing the FRCS Edinburgh Examination to be conducted in India since 1995. He took a proactive role in conducting awareness camps for the public, and regular continuing medical education programmes for doctors.

He was appointed Honorary Surgeon to the President of India by former President R. Venkataraman and was a consultant surgeon at the Armed Forces Medical College.

Sure enough, recognition and honours found their way to him from across the country and abroad. The Padma Bhushan came in 2002, and Prof. NR, as he was fondly called, received the Dr. B.C. Roy National Award for eminent medical person twice. His name is inscribed in the Wall of Honour of The Royal Society of Medicine. He received the Living Legend award from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 2010. Apart from honours in surgical gastroenterology, he was also elected Active Member of the Breast Surgery International (BSI) by the International Society of Surgery 1999.

Some of his students, leaders by their own merit today, recalled fondly his guidance, commitment and

devotion to the cause of teaching. S.M. Chandramohan, Head, Surgical Gastroenterology, Madras Medical College, says “Prof. NR is the perfect example of all a doctor should be. Under his guidance, many fine specialists have emerged, and have been inspired to handle major problems with the same courage and conviction that he showed.”

Another student of his, R. Surendran, former director of Stanley Hospital’s Institute of Surgical Gastroenterology and Liver Transplant, says Dr. Rangabashyam was a visionary: “When he started the surgical gastroenterology department, people said there was no need for a separate specialty. Even when he held an honorary position, he would stay in the hospital for long hours, guiding students,” Mr. Surendran said.

The Hindu Newspaper, Chennai, India (July 14 2013)

Dr Nathan Dembovitz MBBS

My father died at the tragically early age of 39, having worked as a consultant psychiatrist at St Georges Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, and Wimbledon Hospital. He apparently was influenced in his career choice by Dr Emmanuel Miller who was his trainer. People who knew Nathan (Nat) spoke highly to me of his empathy and wide knowledge of the arts, and he took part in a very early BBC TV interview about mental illness. I understand that one viewer, a patient of his who had suffered from elective mutism for many years, was so startled to see him on ‘the box’ that she yelled out ‘Mum -come and watch this - my doctor is on tele’ and she was cured!

Alyson Elliman (19 March 2012)

My wife Phyllis and I first knew Nat (Dembo) and Trudy before the NHS was formed, and we often talked about the changes this made to people’s lives. Although I knew Nat had hypertension, his sudden death at the age of 39 came as an enormous shock. I was pleased to be able to support Trudy and her daughter, Alyson, watching with pleasure as she embarked on her medical career and her appointment as a consultant.

Dr Peter Mond (13 November 2012)

Mr John E.A. Wickham FRCS

Congratulations Daddy, I am so proud of you and all your wonderful achievements.

Tishy (16 October 2012)

Professor Kais Kubba FRCOG

I have the honour to be taught by this outstanding teacher in the medical school in Iraq. Professor Kubba has always been a source of inspiration, respect and knowledge.

Dr Hasanen Al-Taiar MBChB, MRCPsych (24 October 2013)

Dr Jack Fieldman MB CHB

My father was a highly intelligent, kind and compassionate General Practitioner and Psychoanalyst. He graduated from St Andrews in 1929 and worked in Central and North West London. He had a capacity for serious psychological insights and a compelling interpersonal presence. I shall always miss our conversations together. He would have loved to know his three wonderful grandsons.

Dr George Fieldman (10 February 2013)

Panel 6 - Testimonials

Professor M.S. 'Sam' Eljamel FRCS

Professor Eljamel, qualified in medicine in 1982, and completed training in neurosurgery in 1992. A Consultant Neurosurgeon since 1995, he had contributed to more than 75 publications, 85 scientific presentations and written several book chapters in photodynamic therapy, neurosurgical robotics and problem-based neurosurgery.

Mrs Adora Eljamel (21 November 2010)

Dr Kathleen Huntington MB

The older I get, the more of an inspiration my mother becomes. I am also a physician.

Anne Huntington (2 January 2012)

Dr Anne Mathieson MBCHB

Anne is a remarkable and special person I chose to honour to represent just one of over four thousand people that she has treated in 35 years as a medical hypnotherapist. Her approach to each individual is with a unique blend of genuine curiosity and easy rapport skills, interwoven with rich stories drawn from her own life, literature, poetry legend and imagery laced always with warmth and common sense.

She is a fourth-generation doctor in her family and after qualifying at Leeds Medical School had ambition to practice obstetrics. Marriage and family intervened, and her interest was to develop into a private practice of hypnosis and psychotherapy via general practice, family planning and psychosexual medicine; training with what was then the British Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis and a Balint Group at the Tavistock Institute.

She became a lecturer in the Metropolitan branch of BSMDH and served as President of the Hypnosis Section of the RSM between 1995 and 1997. She often talked about writing a book - when finally written down it will be a fascinating collection of what she does best; telling stories for which there is always a wise and perceptive purpose. Typically, she is in no rush to get into print, her own mother published the first of several poetry books when a nonagenarian.

By chance I was referred to her in 2006. Anne by then living in Ambleside was vaguely known to my GP as a therapist who saw a few clients having been retired for over 20 years. The truth is that her priority, pursued with vigour and humour is that of "manning the base camp" for her growing extended family including teenage grandchildren, dogs and the frequent influx of visitors in the unique environment of Wraysholme, her book-filled traditional Lakeland home in the shelter of Loughrigg Fell.

Her time with clients is now selective but unfailingly generous. What good fortune I had. I rang her and such is her charisma that after a short talk I immediately felt cared about and confident of change. Since then we have talked much, laughed and enjoyed each other's company. She became my friend and mentor introducing me to poetry, hypnosis, BSCAH and the RSM. I went on to and continue to practice hypnosis much influenced by the underpinnings of her experience and skill in all things to do with the mind, human behaviour and the enrichment of life.

Dr Liz Williams (23 September 2010)

Anne was instrumental in my becoming a Section member, indeed without her assistance I should never have become a member. She has been a constant source of encouragement and inspiration ever since.

Her hospitality is second to none and we have enjoyed walks and talks together in her beloved lake district where access to the fell is straight out of her back door. Here we toss ideas back and forth and I usually come away with greater insight than when I arrived.

That she continues to show interest in all matters, especially pertaining to the medical use of hypnosis, long after what most consider to be retirement years, is typical of her.

On behalf of the Section, she served long and well I wish her enjoyment in this honour so richly deserved.

Jacky Owens (23 September 2010)

Dr Judy E.C. McArdell PhD

You were an inspiration to all those who came into contact with you. Your legacy will live on through your two wonderful children James and Victoria.

Lance McArdell (20 November 2012)

Mrs Rashida Shakoor

I decided to honour my mother Rashida Shakoor because she was an exceptional teacher with a devotion to educational achievement. She was the reason my sister and I studied medicine at Oxford. She also had an immense social conscience and helped displaced and abandoned women.

Dr Sameena Shakoor

She is the wonderful, elegant, soft spoken and very kind lady I have ever met. Fortunately, I am her niece and I am very proud about it. She is just out of this world. I have never seen her in anger and she is always smiling. God bless her; she will always remain in our hearts. I love you khala.

Faeza Raza (3 November 2010)

Mr Robert A.P. Fitzsimons FRCS

My father, Robert Allen Fitzsimons, "Fitz", was born in 1892 in Ardtrasna townland in the Maugherow district of County Sligo, Ireland. Winning a Civil Service competition, he entered the Customs and Excise Laboratory in Belfast, moving to the London head office in 1912.

Evening study at Birkbeck College led to the London BSc with alpha marks in all subjects. He then started medical studies, at King's College and Charing Cross Hospital, again achieving many distinctions, including the Jelf medal and the Huxley scholarship. He qualified aged 38, in 1930.

After a spell in general practice, he returned to Charing Cross Hospital as surgical registrar and in 1933 was appointed Honorary Consulting Surgeon. His particular surgical interests were orthopaedics and thyroid surgery. During the war years in London, he operated on the casualties from tragedies such as the bombing of the Café de Paris and of the Guards Chapel. He was supported throughout his work, especially during the "Blitz", by my mother, Mary Patricia McKelvey, an Industrial Medicine specialist (working at ICI Headquarters).

My father's life was enriched by his love of music, art and literature, and his knowledge of Irish history. He remained close to his family in Ireland throughout his life. His other source of great fulfilment was that my brother, James, and I both qualified in medicine.

Judith Hockaday (23 April 2013)

Miss Kitty Quinn CNR

A woman of worth who can find her? For her price is far above rubies. Book of Proverbs.

The Battle of Britain demonstrated to the Luftwaffe that it would never win the skies of England and thus the tactic was switched to one of intimidating and demoralizing the population by saturation bombing. London was the main target for this so-called Blitz and throughout the latter months of 1940 experienced 57 consecutive nights of sustained attack. By July 1941 the city had been hit by approximately 50,000 bombs; the worst assault occurring on the night of 10 May when 1436 civilians were killed. At a more specific level, throughout the duration of the war at least 2,500 bombs and rockets struck the Lambeth area where Kitty Quinn lived and worked.

It was part of a concerted effort to damage key infrastructures along the Thames - such as railways, bridges, power stations, gas works and food supply lines - in order to wreak havoc and destruction on an unprecedented scale. Anticipated civilian injuries from these bombardments prompted the government to recruit a reserve of nursing auxiliaries and thus the Civil Nursing Reserve (CNR) was formed. Members wore a blue overall with the letters NA on the chest along with a "Halifax" cap and were primarily assigned for work in civilian hospitals and First Aid posts. They were formed to complement and supplement the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses who worked mainly in Military hospitals. However, given the complexities of war and its subsequent demands there was often an overlap of duty and responsibility between the two groups. The Civil Nursing Reserve was an ideal alternative for many young women called to National Service because it lessened neighbourhood fragmentation and enabled those without appropriate skills to train as nurses.

A full-time auxiliary who lived at home was paid £2 per week and wore a chrome badge on civilian clothing to designate status. Kitty Quinn was 24 years of age when war was declared in 1939 - three days before her birthday - and like many others in the community she opted to join the Civil Nursing Reserve. In doing so, she was lucky not to have been on duty the night the hospital where she initially worked was bombed and 20 nurses were killed. The shock, horror and distress of the event brought home to everyone that the job was not without its risks and perils.

All training for auxiliaries was in-house and on-the-job. There was no precise job description because each day revolved around the exigencies of the moment. Monday might involve working with a mixed patient group, which was comprised of wounded evacuees from Dunkirk, tuberculosis sufferers, bomb blast victims, amputees, and those afflicted with cancer or other chronic illnesses. Tuesday could be completely different inasmuch as the auxiliary would be required to assist in the children's ward. Wednesday may well have been spent at the ante-natal clinic. Thursday demanded that help be given to the elderly or those with mental health problems. Finally, each Friday was possibly devoted to sombre duties in the morgue.

The mainstay of much nursing "practice" was carried out on bare boards with a primitive sluice for the use of dozens of patients; there were no gloves, except for theatre. Incontinent patients were cleaned with frayed hemp, whereas soiled linen had to be washed by hand before being sent to the laundry. At a personal level, there was always a physical risk of infection from patients with contagious diseases, or of psychological trauma due to the gruesome nature inherent in many aspects of the job. It was not a career for the faint-hearted and those with little or no faith often found themselves appealing to a higher authority for comfort and consolation. Days, and more so nights, were long and arduous and often shrouded by a sense of gloom. The work was for the most part dirty, unpleasant, and undoubtedly without glamour or reward. On many an occasion the task at hand seemed to be never-ending and hopeless. Resources, when available, were scarce and limited. Apart from a constant sense of unease and danger which overshadowed the hospital setting, there lurked in the background an unspoken fear for the safety of family, friends and colleagues at home and elsewhere. Nonetheless, and notwithstanding such limitations, morale remained high, and a shared sense of camaraderie and destiny meant that people accepted their lot with stoic resignation.

Kitty - Catherine - Quinn was the third of twelve children. She had grown up in a tough working-class environment where hunger, poverty, hardship and self-sufficiency were the order of the day. There was no welfare state, no National Health Service, no education available at Secondary level, and certainly no chance of university or entry to the professions. Family expectations were high inasmuch as they demanded

that each child, as soon as he or she was able, should find work and thus support the budget. Boys of all ages worked in a variety of casual environments and for a range of employers such as market stallholders, fishmongers, rag and bone merchants, builders, waterways, barges, breweries, and public transport. Girls, by way of contrast, sought employment in shops, factories, hotels, houses, restaurants, and laundries. In addition, they were expected to help with household chores and to look after younger siblings.

This demand became even more essential as far as Kitty was concerned following the death of her father when she was 18 years old. Despite the drawbacks of such a life Kitty was ever cheerful. People knew her as an attractive, vivacious, kind and warm-hearted person who was ever ready to help someone in need. Coming from a musical family meant that song and dance illuminated much of the prevailing darkness, and undoubtedly helped in the formation of Kitty's personality. Bible readings, especially from the Book of Psalms, contributed enormously to the reflective side of her character. One of her favourite pieces is taken from Psalm 19: "The teaching of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul. The evidence of the Lord can be trusted, making wise the simple. The duties of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, standing forever. The judgments of the Lord are true, all of them just. They are more to be desired than gold, even the finest gold. They are even sweeter than the honey as it drips from the honeycomb".

Like many people in times of conflict Kitty sought and found love, but sadly it was not destined to last. The war and its immediate aftermath left little time for individual happiness to flourish and grow, and to make matters worse Kitty had started to become ill. So much loss, so much devastation, so much misery, so much hardship, so much social deprivation had finally taken its toll. The cancer came. The cancer stayed. The cancer spread. The medics could do little but watch and wait as the cancer slowly took its toll. In the 1950s cancer was a sentence and not just a word. Kitty, with great courage and dignity, finally succumbed to the ravages of the disease at the tender age of 43 years.

Josh Stewart

Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was one of the rarest and wonderful human beings ever born on planet earth. If anyone thinks of great names in the history of mankind Sir M.V. is one of them. A brilliant engineer and statesman. Brilliance, discipline, honesty and unselfish service to mankind was his shining character.

The princely state of Mysore in southern India benefited enormously from his hard work and foresight. He planned and helped to establish Mysore University and medical education. He was respected and held in high admiration and affection by eminent people of his time like Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru. Born on 15.09.1860 and passed away on 24.04.1962. He was honoured by the British Crown and the Bharat Ratna title, the highest award in India. Posting by V.Rangaswamy, one of his millions of admirers.

V.Rangaswamy (1 September 2014)

Dr Mary Patricia Fitzsimons DIH

Our mother, Mary Patricia Fitzsimons (née McKelvey), MRCS, LRCP, DIH, "Paddy", was born in 1904 in Cardiff of Irish parents, Dr Thomas McKelvey from Omagh in County Tyrone and Mary Ellen Jones from Foxford in County Mayo.

She entered the Cardiff (later Welsh National) Medical School in October 1919 at the age of 16½, took the London second MB and completed her clinical training at Westminster and Charing Cross Hospitals. She qualified in medicine in April 1926 and began working "on the House" at Westminster.

In April 1927 she married Robert Allen Fitzsimons, "Fitz", also Honoured on this Panel, whom she had met at Charing Cross Hospital when Westminster students were attending courses there while Westminster was rebuilding. After a brief spell in Brixton, they moved to Cardiff. Here Fitz and later Paddy, one of the very

few woman doctors in Cardiff, joined the Practice of McKelvey and Robinson in Albany Road, where their son and daughter were born. In 1932, Paddy set up her own Practice in Cathedral Road in Cardiff, while Fitz was training to become a surgeon in London. In 1934, after Fitz had been appointed an Honorary Assistant Surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital, they moved to Landsdowne Road in London.

During the war, Paddy and Fitz were fully occupied coping with the bombing at home and the trying conditions at work, Paddy's as an Industrial Medical Officer in Glaxo Laboratories when it was developing Penicillin and Fitz's dealing with bomb casualties in hospital. One of the problems that Paddy dealt with was the health of women working with stilboestrol. After the war, in 1946, Paddy retired from General Practice when she started to work full-time as Deputy Chief Medical Officer for ICI. Throughout her life, Paddy was a wonderful doctor and a source of comfort and strength for the many that turned to her when they were in trouble and needed help.

Judith Hockaday (6 June 2015)

Dr Charles M. Poser FRCPE

Charles M. Poser, M.D., was an internationally renowned neurologist with a broad range of interests. His hundreds of published papers, letters, lectures, and books covered a range of topics including tropical neurology, malaria, epidemiology, and medical history. But his main focus of clinical practice and research were the diseases of the myelin sheath, most notably multiple sclerosis.

He classified metabolic myelin diseases as “dysmyelinations” and “myelinoclastic diseases” and coined the term “vasculomyelinopathy” for the immune-mediated myelin disorder of multiple sclerosis (MS). MS comprises a spectrum of illness causing severe and progressive disability in some, whereas others live a near normal life with only minor symptoms. This wide variation in individual manifestations of MS handicapped interpretations of clinical research, epidemiology, and reports on treatment results due to varying definitions of diagnosis and disease severity.

In 1983 Dr Poser published in the *Annals of Neurology* a definitive system, refined from criteria previously outlined by Dr George Schumaker, for measuring and describing MS. The “Poser Criteria” were quickly adopted worldwide as the standard tool for diagnosis. Advent of the MRI subsequently introduced new imaging criteria, however Dr Poser always maintained that MS was not a radiographic diagnosis, but a “clinical exercise” based on the characteristic dissemination of lesions separated in both time and space. He emphasised the importance of epidemiologic methods in the study of MS and proposed a role of Viking susceptibility genes to explain geographic isolates with high MS prevalence in the Mediterranean. He was sceptical of early promises for treatment that lacked clear evidence to suggest significant delays in disease progression.

Charles Marcel (he disliked his middle name and never wrote it out) Poser was born in Antwerp, Belgium on 30 December 1923. His father, Maurice Poser, was born in Krakow, Poland in 1890 and moved to Antwerp as a child. Charles' father and grandfather worked in the diamond industry. His mother, Sadye (Gleitsman), married Maurice whilst he was stranded in New York during the First World War. Fearing the outbreak of a new war, Charles' father, now a naturalized American citizen, procured passage for his family, all Jewish, to sail to New York on 12 May 1940, but at 0600, 10 May, Germany invaded Belgium and bombed Antwerp Harbor. The family moved to the coastal town of De Panne on the Belgian side of the border just east of Dunkirk and Bray-Dunes in France. Charles, a 16 year old Belgian Boy Scout with a First Aid merit badge, volunteered at a makeshift British military hospital on the Channel coast during the epic Anglo-French evacuation of forces to England of May - June 1940.

His family eventually joined hundreds of refugees smuggled across occupied France to Paris and then Bordeaux where they were provided with Portuguese visas. They sailed from Lisbon on SS Excalibur to New York in September. Settled in New York City, Charles was graduated from George Washington High School in 1941. In 1943 he quit City College of New York and enlisted in the US Army, whereupon he returned to Europe as part of a military intelligence unit. He was at Bastogne and the famed Battle of the Bulge in the

winter of 1944. Later he was attached to the 11th Armoured Division (3rd US Army) and was present at its liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Mauthausen in Austria, May 1945. He returned to New York and CCNY after the war.

In 1947 he was graduated (Phi Beta Kappa). He took his medical degree from Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University in 1951, awarded the Zabriskie Prize in Neurology. Following internship at Roosevelt Hospital, he served as resident, then chief resident at the New York Neurological Institute of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center under Dr H. Houston Merritt (1902-1979), one of the Giants of American neurology. He married Joan (Crawford) on 3 September 1950. They had two sons.

In 1955 he won a Fulbright Scholarship to the Institute Bunge allowing him to return to Antwerp and work with the neuropathologist Dr Ludo van Bogaert. It was van Bogaert who first fired his interest in diseases of myelin. Charles once said that the parts of neurology most attractive to him were learned from his two mentors: "Merritt, who taught me to make a diagnosis on the basis of a good history, and van Bogaert, who helped me understand the underlying pathology." He began his academic career at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, where he practiced and taught until 1961. Subsequently he held positions at the University of Missouri (Kansas City) Medical Center where he was Chief of Neurology; the University of Vermont College of Medicine as Chairman of the Department of Neurology; and the Boston University, Veterans Administration, and Beth Israel-Deaconess Hospitals - all in Boston, Massachusetts.

He was a demanding and uncompromising teacher of bedside medicine, with a style and rigor no longer in vogue. The practice of this intimidating rite of passage was once captured on camera: a multi-part American television (PBS- NOVA) program devoted to following the training and development of a class of Harvard Medical School includes a segment where Dr Poser dismisses a student for what he considered a lacklustre inadequate performance.

Dr Poser was one of the founding fathers of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) which first met in Brussels in 1957 with 26 delegates representing 21 countries. The draft WFN constitution was prepared by a committee consisting of van Bogaert, Merritt, Critchley, Bailey, Tournay, Schlattenbrand, and Poser as Secretary. He was Editor in Chief of WFN's first journal *World Neurology*. He assisted organising the First International Congress of the Neurological Sciences. Later he founded the *Journal of Tropical and Geographical Neurology* (1989-1992). He was multilingual; fluent in French, Flemish, and German, as well as English; and a fearless traveller lecturing nationally and internationally on all continents (except Antarctica). He received numerous academic honours worldwide, prizing especially the Order of King Leopold from his native Belgium. An annual eponymous lecture is given to this day at the Stern Center for Language and Learning in collaboration with the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.

His eclectic diversions - those of a "Renaissance human biologist," he once said - included literature evidenced by his grand library, a massive collection of carefully catalogued seashells from around the world, another extraordinary collection of international military medical insignia (now at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington, DC), and an epicurean taste in international culture and cuisine.

'Charlie' Poser was a gifted diagnostician who approached the neurologic diagnosis using the gestalt obtained from a careful clinical history, following the detective technique used by one of his favourite characters, Inspector Maigret of Paris' Police Judiciare as portrayed in a long series of novels by Georges Simenon (1903-1989), all of which he read again and again (in French).

He decried the increasing role and bias of the pharmaceutical industry in sponsoring, promoting, and directing published medical research in general, and interpreting MS therapeutic efficacy in particular. Prominence begets critics, can risk offense, and hazards misinterpretation. Charles was not unacquainted with any of these. He faced adversity as it came; offense was never intended. His patients adored him. He was a compassionate physician, an original researcher, a truly international neurologist, my (and others) caring mentor, and a cherished friend.

I was at his side when he died at his home in Boston on Armistice Day, 11 November 2010. I met Charles as a medical student at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. Soon my mentor, he was already a long-

time member of the Royal Society of Medicine which he visited frequently, often with Joan who he always said was his best editor. I would meet him at 1 Wimpole Street, for dinners and conversation when I was a serving officer (Colonel, Medical Corps) assigned to London as US Medical Liaison to the United Kingdom (1999-2001). It was during these visits that he encouraged me to join the RSM, which I did, for which, among so many things, I am eternally grateful to him. "You know, Dave," he said one evening at the RSM, "I think I see more of you in London than I did back home in the States." Stateside I was fortunate to be one of his latch-key holders, one of so many welcomed by him and Joan to stay at their home on Rutland Square. "Your room is waiting," he always said. In the library of Charles' home in Boston there is a framed old parchment, a yellowing reproduction of a French sonnet by Christophe Plantin 'Le Bonheur de Ce Monde': The Joys of Living', or on how to lead the good life of this world. Plantin was a Renaissance humanist who died in Antwerp in 1589. A line from his sonnet advises "Conserver l'esprit libre, et le jugement fort," [To possess a full spirit and a strong sense of justice]. Charles Poser so lived; indeed he was this, a man filled with passion for humanity. I miss him.

Dave Edmond Lounsbury, MD, FACP with assistance from Gustavo C. Roman, MD (September 2014)