

OBITUARIES

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Ruth Doherty at r.doherty@nature.com. All submitted obituaries should be 450 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 800 words). Content of the obituary is down to the individual author, and the approval of the family should be given for the obituary prior to submission to the *BDJ*.

GORDON A. SMITH

1943 – 2015



Gordon Smith died in Wythenshawe Hospital on 7 June 2015 after stoically enduring, since his early retirement, a progressively restrictive respiratory disease.

Gordon qualified in Dundee in 1967, and joined their staff before being recruited to Manchester in 1971. Gordon was a lively transplant to England, not only bringing fresh knowledge, but also an air of fun – his sense of humour becoming widely recognised throughout his professional circle. He was not only a skilled and empathic teacher, he was also the dentist's dentist engendering huge respect among local practitioners via his popular lectures and courses. He was a modest, but talented, clinical academic with realism and practicality as his guide-stone.

Gordon Alexander Smith was born on 1 November, 1943, in Forfar, Scotland, son of Alex and Jean Smith, and attended Forfar Academy, where he met his future wife, Pam. His home background imbued him with an aptitude for practical skills which not only translated to his dental academic studies at Queens College, Dundee, (then a component of St. Andrews University), where he won several prizes, but manifested in considerable woodworking ability to complement his consummate amateur baking and innate musical talents.

He researched many aspects of dentistry and was soon heavily involved with ICI in developing and trialling their light-cured composite resins. He was examiner at, and Regional Adviser to, the RCS Edinburgh as well as examiner for the Board of Dental Nurses. In 1980 he was appointed the first NHS restorative consultant at Manchester. The succession of trainees who passed

through his newly independent clinics all speak highly of his care and concern over their career developments; and their own subsequent senior status is testament to his responsible supervision.

There was always laughter where Gordon was. Colleagues, students and technical and nursing staff all enjoyed his wit, which was often sharply perceptive, but never barbed. He would say something and look over his glasses at you straight-faced, then you saw the twinkle in his eye and heard the comment – 'think about it' – and the penny would drop!

With the advent and increasing significance of dental implants, he had the foresight and the expertise to pioneer a teamwork, but patient oriented, approach to this expanding service, working with oral surgery colleagues in the North West Region and forging links with a corresponding team based in Merseyside.

Gordon was a much respected and hugely popular figure, devoted to patient welfare, and influential in dental teaching and clinical practice.

He is survived by his wife, Pam, and by his son, Graham and daughter, Kate.

John Lilley

SUZANNE MORIARTY TURNBULL

1967 – 2015



Suzanne Moriarty Turnbull, originally from Roslea, Co. Fermanagh, attended St. Josephs Convent Grammar School, Donaghmore. After gaining three grade As in her A levels Suzanne decided

to study dentistry and had a place at Trinity, Dublin, and although a fluent Irish speaker, decided to leave Ireland during the troubles and moved over the water to Cardiff in 1985 to study at The Welsh School of Dentistry. During the course, Suzanne made many friends and she excelled academically. She was

dedicated to studying, but balanced this with an active social life. It was while she was a Surgical House Officer that Suzanne met the love of her life, Nick Turnbull, a fellow dental student.

Following graduation in 1990, Suzanne held HO and SHO Oral Surgery posts at the Heath Hospital, Cardiff Royal Infirmary, Swindon, Wexford Park, the Royal Free Hospital and the Wittington Hospital London. In 2000 Suzanne obtained her FDS RCS Eng. Following this Suzanne moved into the community dental services in Islington, North London and then Portsmouth as Nick moved there with the Royal Navy. She was a caring and talented dentist with an easy manner, treating mainly special needs children in her later posts.

Suzanne settled in Southsea, Hampshire in 2000 with her husband Nick, where she had her daughter Molly in 2005. Suzanne was passionate about art, literature, fashion and music, and these interests led to many friendships being made, especially her book club which she started in 2007.

Suzanne was able to remove the stresses of life through running, and completed four marathons in Paris, Dublin and Brighton; the last one in Brighton in 2012.

Suzanne had an amazing smile that could lift a room, she was an amazing character, loved and cherished by friends, family and her patients.

Following a long, convoluted fight against breast cancer, Suzanne passed away peacefully at home on 6 July 2015 surrounded by her family.

Suzanne is survived by her husband, Nick, and 9 year old daughter, Molly, and the Requiem Mass at Portsmouth Catholic Cathedral was filled with friends, colleagues and neighbours coming together to celebrate a happy life prematurely ended. She will be remembered as the most stylish Irish beauty; a kind, intelligent and humorous lady, greatly missed by all.

Richard Miller-White