

Professor James Colquhoun Petrie, *CBE, FAMS*

Professor James Colquhoun Petrie died from a brain tumour in Scotland on 31 August 2001. With the passing of Jim Petrie, the Academy of Medicine, Singapore has lost a great friend, counsellor, supporter and an eminent fellow academician.

Fellows of the Academy of Medicine of Singapore first met Jim formally in 1997 at the Joint Meeting of the Royal Colleges of Physicians & Surgeons of Edinburgh with the Academies of Medicine of Malaysia and Singapore. Jim introduced our Fellows to the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) of which he was the founding chairman. This exposure led to the Academy of Medicine playing an important role in the development of clinical guidelines in Singapore. We have adopted the methodology for assessing the quality of evidence developed by SIGN. Under his leadership, SIGN has produced more than 50 clinical guidelines for a variety of clinical conditions. In 1998, Jim became the President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. On assuming the presidency of the College of Edinburgh, Jim managed to pack an enormous amount of work into his already busy schedule. Apart from his college duties, he was Director of Grampian Health Board; Member, General Medical Council and World Health Organisation Expert Advisory Panel on drug policies and management, including membership of many other bodies.

Jim had a tremendous interest in the medical scene here, and in the region, and especially of Fellows of the College and the Academy, visiting Singapore on numerous occasions. His influence on our Joint M Med (Internal Medicine and Paediatrics) and MRCP (UK) examinations, initiated during the Presidency of Dr A D Toft in 1995, was immense; no doubt contributing to the close relationship between the UK colleges, the Graduate School and the Academy. He was conferred FAMS in 1998 and was the 15th Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator in 2000, as well as the CGH (Changi General Hospital) Orator.

Jim was an energetic man, an excellent skier and a social golfer. He had a good sense of humour and was always enjoyable company. His intellect was immense; he argued his point firmly but fairly. Married to Xanthe since 1964, Jim has 4 children (all doctors) and 6 grandchildren. Jim died shortly after demitting office of the Presidency with so much that he still wanted to do. But his work and effort and influence will live on to benefit patients, as well as his younger colleagues and friends in the College in Edinburgh and here in the Academy and institutions the world over.



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