

# William John Reynolds

By Robert Inman, MD, FRCPC, FACP, FRCP, Edin; and Duncan Gordon, MD, FRCPC, MACR

Still running his practice until a few weeks before his death, Jack Reynolds died on March 18, 2009, at 75 years old. Born in The Pas, Manitoba, and the son of a Presbyterian minister, Jack graduated in 1958 from the University of Toronto. He then trained in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology in Toronto and the United Kingdom.

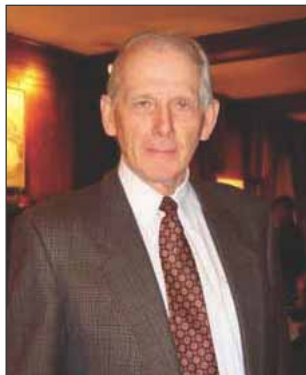
With his passing, the rheumatology field has lost a member of a select group of rheumatologists who were sponsored by The Arthritis Society to obtain training at The Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital in Taplow, U.K. There, Jack came under the influence of Barbara Ansell and Eric Bywaters, a team whose contributions to rheumatology in the postwar era had become legendary.

On his return to Canada, with the support of The Arthritis Society, Jack became the first Director of Rheumatology at the Toronto Western Hospital with the establishment of a 20-bed Rheumatic Disease Unit in collaboration with physiatrist Dr. Jack Crawford. Jack Reynolds became a pioneer creating a teaching, research and clinical practice base at the Western.

The merging of Toronto Western, Toronto General and Princess Margaret hospitals into a single entity led to the Western becoming a major center for rheumatology care and research. Jack's teaching and clinical skills were recognized, and he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1983.

During these years, and throughout his career, his interests and publications on chronic pain were stimulated by colleagues like Harvey Moldofsky and Hugh Smythe. Jack wrestled with the elusive nature of chronic pain long before it was fashionable to do so. He formulated a working biopsychosocial model of chronic pain. He would discuss the latest insights into parasympathetic overload and gate theory, while reflecting on the anguish of refugees and torture victims, who were left with a life of painful memories and chronic fatigue.

As a medical student, Jack's degree in music earned him praise and fees to cover his tuition by playing the organ at many weddings. Later, as a key member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, he contributed enormously to the life of the congregation. He was also a life long supporter of the Toronto Symphony and the Canadian Opera Company.



Jack Reynolds, 1933-2009

There was something intrinsically appealing about working with Jack. As a physician, his distinctive style was characterized by humility and commitment to his patients. He loved being a doctor, and frequently expressed his great admiration for the knowledge and sophistication of the young residents coming through the Rheumatology program. After a journal club presentation, he would often comment on how exciting the advances in biomedical science had become.

For all his years of experience, he had a youthful balanced approach to medicine and to life. His music gave him an internal cadence, while his balance came from his family and his faith. He loved to provide updates on the travels of his children as they grew, and more recently, his grandchildren. Jack's career defined the continuity of our specialty recognized by his wide referral base and grateful patients from whom he enjoyed a constant flow of presents.

Can physicians, living in the age of molecular genetics and reductionist scientific methods, keep alive the sense of wonder at the complexity of the mind-body interaction? Jack did.

Can clinicians, living in an age of tightening budgets and regulations, keep alive the sense of thankfulness for the privilege of being a doctor? Jack did.

What we never heard was cynicism, or defeatism, or sarcasm. What we always heard was warmth, and humor, and compassion. How fine it would be if that could all be taught or transmitted to young students of medicine.

What a privilege to have worked and lived with such an individual. Jack is sorely missed by his colleagues and patients. We share our great sense of loss with Jack's wife, Beverley, and his family.

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