

**Daniel Greer Young
(1932-2013)**

Professor Young was born in 1932 and graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1956. He undertook his National Service serving in Ghana on a Special Short Service Commission during which time Ghana celebrated its independence. He returned to Glasgow via the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, as an Assistant Lecturer in the Physiology Department. His further surgical training was in Glasgow and the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC), Great Ormond Street, London before being appointed a Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant at the HSC and at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Hackney.

In 1969 he returned to Glasgow as Head of the Department of Surgical Paediatrics, University of Glasgow. The neonatal surgical unit was established in November 1971 when the hospital moved back to new premises on its original site. This unit was state of the art of its time and has been widely recognised. The Unit was refurbished in 1991 and was renamed 'The Dan Young Neonatal Surgical Unit' by The Chairman of the Health Board. Over the last 42 years more than 15,000 'surgical' neonates have been cared for in the Unit.

Dan developed a fine Department of Paediatric Surgery, was an excellent educator and role model, and trained many younger surgeons from all continents. He was appointed as the first Professor of Surgical Paediatrics in the University of Glasgow in 1992 and stepped down from his academic leadership role in 1998. He continued to be exceptionally productive as emeritus professor and regularly taught medical students at the bed side for ten years after his retirement. He was an excellent teacher and well liked. An astute clinician, he enjoyed picking up on clinical signs that others had missed. He relished the challenge of a difficult diagnosis.

Dan acted as an adviser to many young surgeons in his role as a leader in the field. He retired from clinical practice in 1998 but was still active and until recently, was the President of the British Society for the History of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Dan was elected President of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS) and awarded the prestigious Denis Browne Gold medal in 1999. During his professional career, he received numerous other accolades. He has served on most local, Scottish and British committees in both the surgical and medical paediatric fields, and was Honorary Secretary of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida.

In the 1980s he chaired the Committee that oversaw the establishment of the Intercollegiate FRCS in Paediatric Surgery in Britain. He has maintained good contact and relationships with surgeons in other specialties through his career and has been an examiner for over thirty years (in all) in the FRCS and MRCS examinations of the British Royal Colleges as well as being an examiner in the Diploma of Child Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dan was Editor for the British Isles for the Journal of Pediatric Surgery for 17 years. Internationally he has assisted in establishing the specialty of paediatric surgery and has been made an honorary member of many national paediatric associations. He has a considerable bibliography of published papers, chapters and textbooks. The University of Wroclaw, in recognition of his contributions to Polish paediatric surgery, honoured him with a Doctorate.

Away from his direct clinical and teaching work Dan had been very supportive of children with disabilities and their families. He was asked to become the Honorary President of the Scottish Spina Bifida Association (SSBA) thirty years ago and has continued working with them for over three decades. In 2007 the SSBA built a new centre in the middle of Scotland, replacing their three previous offices. In recognition of Dan's services, the new more spacious building was named 'The Dan Young Building'. The staff at this centre are there to give support to the affected individuals and to their families throughout Scotland. This is a charity organisation, now over 40 years old, and is funded by voluntary contributions.

Dan was devoted to his family. He would have been the first to say how blessed he had been with his wife Nan to whom he had been married for more than fifty years. They had been together since their school days in Wishaw and she travelled the globe with him from his posting abroad to Ghana where their daughter was born. Nan had accompanied him to all the national and international meetings. Together they acted as hosts, in their lovely home in Pollokshields, to many friends and visitors from overseas. Many people have fine memories of their tremendous hospitality and Nan's wonderful cooking. Almost three years ago Dan's life changed abruptly when Nan died very suddenly. Despite his loss he continued to lead a very active life maintaining a regular presence in the hospital looking after the archives and attending weekly academic meetings. As recently as three weeks ago, while in the hospice, Dan was still dictating changes to his final paper on the origins of the BAPS

His pride and joy was his family. His daughter, Rhoda and son Kenneth, have both followed him into medicine working as general practitioners in Stirling and New Zealand respectively. Dan had a very special place in his heart for his grandchildren, Heather, Kirsten and the late Euan and their New Zealand cousins, Cameron, Kathryn and Iona.

In his 'spare' time Dan would be found either spending time with his family, gardening with particular attention to his tomatoes, or curling – a strange sport to which some natives in the cooler countries are addicted.

Dan was a very special person whom we were privileged to know and who will be sadly missed.

