



Obituary. John Clement.

The news that John had died on Thursday 30th August came as a great shock to many members of BAFO who have known John since he was a lecturer in dental anatomy at the London hospital medical and dental school and lecturer on the diploma in forensic odontology course in the department of forensic medicine.

We extend our condolences to Pauline, his wife, and to the family. John had been suffering from Multiple Myelomas and had received treatment both in the U.K. and Australia but sadly the disease overcame him.

He was one of the first members of BAFO when it was founded in 1980. John started his career as an undergraduate at University College hospital dental school in September 1968, gaining his BDS in 1972 and LDSRCS the following year. He was appointed junior lecturer in dental anatomy at the London under professor Ron Fearnhead in 1973. Following the establishment of the forensic odontology diploma in 1983 he was awarded the diploma in 1985. His research into the microbiological structure of bone gained him a PhD in 1986. I remember his relief when he returned to the department after a tough three-hour viva by the examiners. During the university summer vacation, he would take a break working in a friend's dental practice in Oman, a country he enjoyed.

John was always willing to help forensic odontology students with their projects and became a great supporter of BAFO becoming its president before he left U.K. to take up a senior lectureship in oral anatomy at the university of Melbourne, moving his young family (and his Austin 7) to Australia.

He became very active in the Australian forensic odontology association eventually becoming its president, but never forgetting BAFO he was frequently at our annual conferences giving us a presentation. Those of us who worked in Thailand following the 2004 tsunami also remember him as the leader of the Australian forensic odontology team.

BAFO made him a life member and I had the privilege of making the presentation at one of my visits to the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine in Melbourne where John was head of the centre for human identification. In 1994 he was appointed an associate professor at Melbourne dental school and

in 1999 professor and inaugural chair of forensic odontology at the university and in 2015 deputy head of the dental school.

He was a brilliant researcher and head of research. His research interests were in four fields, the study of age and sex related changes to the human skeleton in collaboration with the MRC bone research unit at Addenbrookes hospital in Cambridge, cheiloscopy and identification from surveillance videos along with human identification and DVI, and human rights issues. He had research links in this country not only at Addenbrookes hospital, Cambridge and at Oxford university but also at Cranfield university where he was honorary research fellow at the forensic institute of the defence academy, also in Japan, Canada and U.S.A. John published 2 books and more than 20 book chapters, in addition to 110 scientific articles in international scientific journals

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him as a friend and fellow forensic odontologist. News of his death arrived by email from Judy Hinchliffe and I quote her words, 'he has achieved so much for the promotion and recognition of forensic odontology'

Derek Clark.

Dr D H Clark CStJ

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