

'Festschrift in honour of Dr. Ernest Ramsey'

This is a very special issue. This Festschrift is dedicated to Dr. Ernest Ramsey, former Chairman of Urology at the University of Manitoba and University of British Columbia, and a stalwart leader and supporter of Canadian urology. Each article has been submitted by a prominent urologist who knew Ernie personally, and felt a personal connection to him.

The life of an academic physician is a juggling act. It is a struggle to balance clinical work and the demands of research and teaching with those of a successful family life, and at the same time maintain other life interests. Achieving this balance is, in my view, the greatest challenge we face.

Ernie's appeal to me was that he so clearly achieved this balance. He was an outstanding role model in this regard. Ernie was a superb clinician. He also was one of the most productive urologists in the country. He was the senior author on a lead article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on the natural history of BPH. This article was notable because a) the data it contained was critical to producing a paradigm shift in the management of BPH, from TURP to more conservative management, and b) as far as I know, this was the first time a lead article in the *New England Journal* was authored by a Canadian urologist.

However, it was in achieving a successful balance in life that Ernie really shone. He was an accomplished athlete, regularly winning tennis tournaments at the annual meeting, and an accomplished golfer. He was a magnificent pianist, and entertained us regularly. He knew a huge repertoire of tunes, and was the life of the party.

Finally, and most importantly, he was completely devoted to his wife Dianne and their children. Ernie and Dianne were a team, indivisible and mutually supportive. His successes were hers.

To achieve success academically and clinically, to maintain a long and loving marriage and raise highly successful children, and have a hell of a good time throughout, was his real achievement.

The manuscripts submitted by Ernie's colleagues are a good cross section of some of the major controversies in urology. There are some real gems. The article by Andrew Bruce addresses the neglected area of Probiotic therapy, which has potential application in urinary tract infections, bladder cancer, and wound infection prophylaxis. The article on the neuroendocrine aspects of male sexual dysfunction and aging by Dr. Morales is an excellent summary by a world leader in the hot field of Andropause. The article by Denis Hosking, who replaced Dr. Ramsey as Chairman of Urology in Winnipeg, addresses the common dilemma of ESWL vs ureteroscopy for distal ureteric stones. The review by Mostafa Elhilali and Curtis Nickel, two international leaders in the

...2

EDITORIAL

...2

field, of BPH from A to Z is a concise summary of an increasingly complex field, and points the way to the future. Larry Goldenberg, who worked with Ernie as program chair during his year of presidency of the CUA and during his tenure in Vancouver, summarizes the intermittent approach to androgen deprivation. The Vancouver group's analysis of this approach has led to world wide implementation and large scale trials of the intermittent concept.

The article by Jewett et al on the use of the BCG-Interferon combination for BCG refractory bladder cancer reports an astonishing 50% response rate in BCG refractory superficial TCC. This is additional evidence for the incorporation of Interferon containing regimens into clinical practice. John Fitzpatrick, an icon of British Urology and a longstanding friend and colleague of Ernie's, has contributed a fascinating summary of the biology of prostatic apoptosis, and the importance of anti-apoptotic factors in androgen independent progression. Nicholas Muruve, a former student, describes a bladder conserving approach in patients with recurrent colon cancer undergoing pelvic exenteration. Joe Chin, who shared Ernie's diverse interests in uro-oncology and transplantation, reports an impressive experience with microvascular reconstruction of donor kidneys prior to transplantation.

These impressive and diverse articles are a tribute to Ernie Ramsey's influence on his colleagues. I hope you find them as entertaining and instructive as I did.

Laurence H. Klotz
Editor-in-Chief