

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS RUTTER (S55-63)

He was born on 4 January 1946 and came to the College from Brandeston Hall on a scholarship. After leaving the College he studied Natural Sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge and Medicine at St Thomas's Hospital, London, qualifying as a doctor in 1970.

After training posts in London, including the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, he went to Nottingham as a registrar in paediatrics. He joined the academic staff at the new medical school there as a lecturer and became a senior lecturer/consultant paediatrician in 1978.

As a paediatrician, he specialised in intensive care of the newborn, paediatric cardiology and general paediatric medicine. As an academic he researched into the physiology of the full term and premature newborn, in particular the function of the newborn skin. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine (Cambridge) for this work. He was instrumental in developing the undergraduate teaching programme in paediatrics at Nottingham and started a postgraduate course.

He has published over 100 research and teaching papers and book chapters in the field of paediatrics. Several research fellows have studied with him and been awarded doctorates for their theses. In 1994 he was made Professor of Paediatric Medicine. For four years he was Admissions Dean for the Nottingham Medical School. He is an honorary life member of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine and the Neonatal Society.

He retired in 2005, remaining an Emeritus Professor. He has since achieved an honours degree in Modern Languages with the Open University.

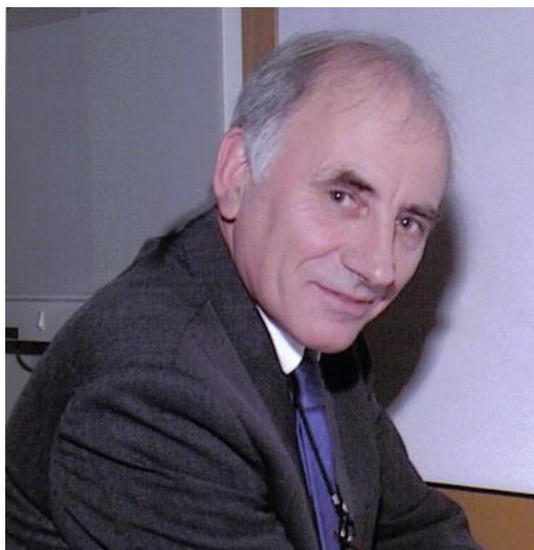
He died on 8 June 2019 and the following is a tribute from Professor Sir Terence Stephenson the Chair of the General Medical Council and the Nuffield Professor of Child Health at University College London :

A paediatric trainee many years ago said this to me about Nick: "he is a fantastic paediatrician, he sings in a Bach choir and he runs - what's not to like?". That succinctly sums up the man. A modest and incredibly dedicated doctor who did ground breaking research on newborn babies' skin and pain and who also lived life to the full through his family and his many outside interests. I can still recall his excitement at passing grade 8 piano or a victory by his beloved Nottingham Forest.

I first met Nick in 1986 when I applied for a lecturer post in the department of child health in Nottingham. He was an inspiration then and he remained an inspiration throughout my professional career. He saw all his patients personally every day in two different hospitals. He usually wrote his own notes with that characteristic blue/black fountain pen. He was totally committed to undertaking research which made a difference to the care of infants and which reassured families that he was very concerned about their wellbeing. In the days before email, he emptied his in-tray by the end of every day. He competed with Derek Johnston for who could see the most new outpatients in a year!

Nick was ferociously time efficient and a very effective leader, whether leading a clinical firm, overseeing undergraduate teaching or supervising research. He valued precision in language, diagnosis and science. Some of his pearls of wisdom: "only touch a piece of paper once"; "children with pneumonia rarely wheeze"; "research only well defined patient groups, not vague populations"; "do one thing at a time and do it well". I learned a lot from him and these are precepts I have followed to this very day.

Nick was very much a family man and he and Bev welcomed me as a young paediatrician to their lovely home in Radcliffe on Trent. When he had achieved all he wanted in clinical academic medicine, he retired from a very busy professional life to spend more time with his family and took up golf and cycling with the passion of a much younger person.



Wisdom and charisma are hard to define but once witnessed, immediately recognisable. Nick had both in spades and was a true jewel of Nottingham paediatrics. His passing is a loss to all of us.