

Richard Montgomery

5 May 1955 - 28 August 2023

Obituary by William Eardley



Professor Richard Montgomery died suddenly of a heart attack on Monday

28th August 2023, after a weekend with family at his cottage in the Yorkshire Dales. His loss is felt by many across the UK orthopaedic community and further afield.

Richard was born in London in May 1955 and following his school years and early life in Tonbridge,

made the journey north to Newcastle to commence undergraduate training and culminated his preparation for consultancy with a year at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

At the age of 34, Richard was appointed Consultant in Trauma and Orthopaedics at North Tees Hospital in 1989 but moved to South Tees (firstly Middlesbrough General and later James Cook University Hospital) in 1991.

He brought modern knee arthroscopic methods to the region initially and then went on to pioneer paediatric surgery. He was one of the first to adopt the Kurgan method of Ilizarov's technique for limb reconstruction and non-union surgery. A fantastic teacher surgeon, his posteromedial release for CTEV was a masterclass in anatomical dissection. Always innovating, the Montgomery Hip Screw is a legacy of his attention to detail and desire to provide children with appropriate implants.

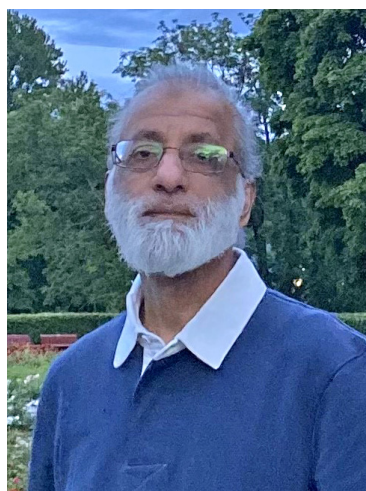
Outside of the hospital he spent time as the Northeast RCSEd representative and spent time on the BOA Committee before committing his extracurricular activities fully to the RCSEd where he held office as Treasurer. Ever the teacher and mentor, he was also Chair of the FRCS Exams Committee. None of this was done for remuneration. He was a classic surgeon but a true doctor to his patients, trainees and colleagues.

Lastly, Richard was an immensely devoted family man and was very proud of his children and grandchildren who he and Angie brought up to bring out the best in them. He will be a missed colleague teacher and friend, the true epitome of a 'life well lived'. ■

Asif Saifuddin

16 November 1959 - 19 August 2023

Obituary by Sajid Butt



Dr Asif Saifuddin joined the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital as a consultant radiologist straight after completing his radiology training from Leeds in 1992. This was his only job application as a consultant radiologist that he would ever make.

He was gifted with a rare to be found clarity of thought and single-minded sense of purpose. An avid reader, he had an encyclopaedic memory and

an extraordinary ability to stay focused at his work. A prodigious scientific writer, he had shown his capabilities in this field from an early stage of his career. His book on the FRCS examination preparation that he published when he was still in training, achieved a cult status and radiology trainees around the world used the book as their final step in getting prepared for the exams.

Asif's skills in the field of scientific writing got only stronger when he started his job of a consultant radiologist at Stanmore. The workload that he faced provided him with rich pickings and he produced close to 400 scientific publications over the next 30 years or so. Most of these papers were published in the most respected scientific journals. He also wrote around ten radiology books (including his magnum opus on MR imaging of Musculoskeletal MRI) and co-authored many chapters in established textbooks.

Asif was the senior member of the RNOH bone and soft tissue tumours service where his opinion was hugely respected. His national and international standing attracted a constant stream of case referrals that benefitted from his knowledge and expertise in making the correct call for management. Right until the end of his tragically short life, Asif remained hugely productive not just in scientific writings but also in his radiological examination reporting figures.

Asif was a deeply religious and quiet person. However, he had a wry sense of humour which he regularly used to showcase in the weekly sarcoma meeting at Stanmore with a brilliant sense of timing. The hilarity of his comments sounding sharper to people who were not familiar with that side of his personality and would lighten the mood even in the most difficult of situations.

Asif had a lot of time for his students. These ranged from radiology and orthopaedic surgical fellows to A-level students with aspirations to become medics. He would help the willing students in their scientific research projects as a capable and highly competent mentor. He was also always extremely helpful to all his colleagues in their daily workload.

Asif was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme in March 2022. He succumbed to this cancer some 17 months later. He leaves behind his widow, four children, a large circle of friends and colleagues and hundreds of students spread around the world. His wisdom, knowledge, work ethic and dry humour will be sorely missed by all who knew him. ■