

Dame Clare Lucy Marx

15th March 1954 - 27th November 2022

Obituary by Mark Bowditch and Deborah Eastwood



Clare was born and brought up in the Midlands and attended Cheltenham Ladies College. She went on to study medicine at UCH London.

She subsequently joined the UCH orthopaedic rotation and following an arthroplasty fellowship in Boston USA, she was appointed as a Consultant at St Mary's Hospital, London.

Having married, it soon became clear a post nearer to home was going to be preferable.

A post arose in Ipswich and Clare became their first female surgeon in any surgical speciality in 1993. Although potentially challenging she experienced nothing but encouragement.

Her passion for high quality education led her to be Chair of the Joint Colleges Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) and produce the first T&O surgical curriculum 2007.

She broke down barriers throughout her career and broke through the glass ceiling of male domination becoming BOA President in 2008, a time she described as the most enjoyable of her career. Although the first female president, this was never an issue for her.

She had an unfaltering sense of what was right for patients and colleagues which directed every decision and having got on to the RCSEngland Council, her focus was always improving patient care.

She rightly became the first woman President of the RCSEngland in 2014.

Having demitted as President of RCSEngland she did not stop and in 2018, she became chair of the Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management, and in 2019 the first woman chair of the General Medical Council. At a time when its reputation amongst doctors was low, she brought a steady sensible hand, enthused by the challenges.

Honoured for services to medicine with CBE 2007 she was made a Dame in 2018.

In recognition of her contribution to the Suffolk community she was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant and in 2022 was one of five recipients to receive the Suffolk Medal.

In 2021, she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and her GMC resignation letter highlighted Clare's approach to medicine: "Since receiving this news, I've have been reminded once again of the importance and power of kindness in everything we do as doctors".

Clare passed away on the 27th November 2022. Her loss will be felt deeply across our orthopaedic community. ■

Eric Anderson

22nd December 2022

Obituary by Ian Winson and Don McBride



It is with great sadness that we write to commemorate the life of our friend and colleague, Eric Anderson, who died shortly before Christmas 2022. Eric was one of the great leaders of the revolution in foot and ankle orthopaedic care over the last 50 years world-wide.

He passed his FRCS in 1971 in London. He was appointed to his consultant post in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow in 1978, where he continued in his NHS practice until 2006.

As a trainer he inspired many that he taught to take up his beloved speciality. As a mentor his common sense and practical approach to problems meant that he was a go to for opinions on difficult cases.

His leadership was evident in the growth of the interest in foot and ankle surgery in the UK. He joined the British Orthopaedic Foot Surgery Society (as it was known in those days) in 1979 and became President in 1982. He was indeed President twice, also having that honour in 1995, at what might be described as the start of the modern era and the evolution to the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society in 2006. At a time of a little bit of an internal revolution, where the growing number of younger surgeons flexed their voting rights at an AGM, it was notable that Eric with his air of quiet common sense (particularly in matters of finance!) spanned the generations. Always an absolute gentleman in all senses of the phrase, you would however often see a little mischievous smile appear when these events unfolded.

In the early to mid-1990s he very much saw the importance of a united voice for foot and ankle surgery in Europe. He was heavily involved in bringing together the then two European societies (ESFAS and EFFAS) with the formation of EFAS in 1998 and was their first Treasurer.

He continued to contribute to the foot and ankle world in his later years not missing a BOFAS meeting for 40 years.

Sadly he lost his wife Liz only three months before he died, leaving his three children Colin, Heather and Fiona.

All who knew him will have a quiet smile at our fondest memory of him. ■