

Bhaskar Bhowal

23rd October 1961 - 22nd December 2022

Obituary by Clare Wildin, Aamer Ullah and Joe Dias on behalf of Bhaskar's Leicester colleagues

Bhaskar was naturally smart and a master of fine detail who never wrote with anything but a Mont Blanc pen. He qualified from Calcutta Medical College in 1984. At medical school he was the Culture Secretary, his love of music and fine food continued throughout his life. In 1991, he came to the UK to work at Morrision Hospital, Swansea, meeting Phil Matthews who sparked his interest in hand surgery.

He was appointed as a Registrar in Leicester in 1993. Here he really developed his love of all things 'British', especially a good steak and going to 'the pub'.

After his fellowship in Wrightington he was appointed as a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at the University Hospitals of Leicester in 1999. Bhaskar never considered himself 'the expert' even though he was. He worked closely with his colleagues, shared opinions and co-operating on difficult cases. He evolved the paediatric hand surgery clinics with our plastic surgery colleagues and forged close working relationships with rheumatology and neurology. Bhaskar was a strong partner in all Leicester research activity, he was Principal Investigator for several National Institute for Health and Care Research studies on scaphoid fractures and Dupuytren's disease and published numerous papers which have changed the treatment pathways for many hand and wrist conditions.

Bhaskar's true passion has always been with education. When aged 16 he was awarded the National Talent Search Scholarship by National Council for Educational Research and Training by the Indian Government, he delivered on his potential becoming East Midlands Deanery Training Program Director, Deputy Head of School of Surgery and Trauma and Orthopaedic SAC member. He was very proud of his trainees achieving an exemplary pass rate for the FRCS T&O exam. He co-authored the T&O curriculum for the General Medical Council, led on Technology Enhanced Learning and helped develop the BOA training course for supervisors. He helped run the Leicester Hand Fracture Course for over two decades and sadly only missed the last course because of ill health.

Bhaskar was much loved by all his colleagues in Leicester and was deeply involved with the Bengali community who regarded him as family. Bhaskar was supportive, obsessive, mischievous, kind and very often infuriating. His optimism was infectious. Despite his own health problems, he made us all smile.

He was a dear friend and colleague and we miss him greatly. ■



Alan William Frederick Lettin

06th January 1931 - 03rd January 2023

Obituary by Keith Tucker, John Getty and Jonathan Lettin



It is with sadness we report the death of Alan Lettin, BOA President 1994-95.

Alan was born in the East End of London and was proud of his humble heritage. He won a prestigious State Scholarship to UCH where he was awarded a BSc in physiology besides qualifying MB, BS, in 1956.

After National Service he entered orthopaedic training mainly at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH) where his ideas as to how orthopaedic surgeons should be trained began to form. He collected his MS (1967) while at RNOH on fracture healing.

In 1967 he was appointed to Bart's and Queen Elizabeth's

Hospital Hackney and in 1969 he was also appointed to the RNOH whilst relinquishing his appointment at Queen's.

During his long association with the RNOH he was involved with the development of the Stanmore knee, elbow and shoulder replacements and demonstrated them around the world. He was in fact a general orthopaedic surgeon but with a special interest in surgery for rheumatoid arthritis and back pain.

His name was on over 40 peer reviewed publications, 37 chapters in books and several books. He gave over 170 presentations to learned societies and served on over 100 committees, often as Chair. He was an examiner for several universities in the UK

He was a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons before becoming a Vice President.

For many of us, what he will mostly be remembered for was his massive contribution to the formation (1969) of the Bart's rotation, now known as the Pott rotation which he oversaw until he retired in 1995. The concept of progressive training, which was the hallmark of the Bart's Rotation, was novel but was rapidly copied by numerous other orthopaedic departments. For Alan, training also involved teaching and he rarely missed his Wednesday teaching session with the Bart's students.

After retirement, Alan moved to Suffolk where he had a small farm which he worked for a number of years.

Alan married Pat in 1954 and they had four children, three of whom survive him. Tragically they lost their daughter to a spinal tumour shortly after Alan's appointment to Bart's. They were an incredibly hospitable and generous couple and many of us remember the dinners at their house in Chigwell with fondness. Alan's generosity will be forever remembered by the inscriptions in the Great Hall at Bart's and the Alan Lettin room at the RCS.

Pat predeceased Alan in 2018 and age slowly took its toll before he died peacefully in his sleep three days before his 92nd birthday. ■