OBITUARY

Professor Ian E. Barnes

It is with deep regret that we record the recent death of Professor Ian Earnest Barnes, at the age of 68 years, on July 31, 2008. Sadly, Ian died just before his daughter Judith’s wedding on August 2. However, he insisted beforehand that the wedding proceed, sending a speech to be read on his behalf. He leaves a loving wife, Jan, daughters, Katherine and Judith, and granddaughter, Matilda (Tilly).

Ian graduated from the old National Dental School (London) in 1961. He spent the early part of his career as a dental surgeon in the Falkland Islands and the Dependency of South Georgia, and with the British Antarctic Survey. I first met Ian in 1967 at the University College Dental Hospital, off Tottenham Court Road in London, where he had just been appointed as a Lecturer in Oral Surgery, working with Professor Raymond O’Neill. In 1970 he switched careers, to become a Lecturer in Conservative Dentistry, working with Professor Geoff Alexander, shortly before the dental school at the University College was to be closed. Ian made use of the following period to commence a PhD under Professor Allan Boyd, until his appointment in 1973 as a Senior Lecturer in Dental Surgery at the Royal Dental Hospital School of Dental Surgery, in Leicester Square, London. In 1981 he was appointed the Director of the Department of Conservative Dentistry, shortly before the old Royal was also involved in the spate of dental school closures and amalgamations occurring in the UK around that time. With his young family, Ian then moved in 1983 to The Dental School, Newcastle upon Tyne to become the Professor and Head of the Department of Operative Dentistry, and subsequently the Head of the Department of Restorative Dentistry. Over the next 10 years he recruited many new energetic staff, and established arguably the strongest academic unit in Restorative Dentistry in the UK. During this period Ian also held many senior professional appointments and produced two textbooks, *Surgical Endodontics*, and *Gerodontology* (with Professor Angus Walls), as well as co-authoring a major report in 1993 on The Dental Status, Needs and Demands of the Elderly in Three Different Communities, for the Department of Health, UK. He also had a particular interest in undergraduate dental education.

In 1994, Ian succeeded Professor Geoff Alexander as the Professor and Head of the Department of Conservative Dentistry, the University of Hong Kong. Once more, he had the challenge of reinvigorating the postgraduate teaching and research of a major discipline in clinical dentistry. Considerable efforts were made to recruit new staff and to establish new teaching programs, and new collaborative research projects with academic staff from dental schools in mainland China. The focus was on making such programs and projects relevant to the oral health care needs of the region. Ian was a strong advocate for his department and the dental school, and contributed much to the profession in Hong Kong.

After leaving the Prince Philip Dental Hospital in 1997, Ian worked for varying periods at the University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, where he had been an Advisor on Restorative Dentistry since 1992. In retirement, he pursued his passion for photography and teaching dental photography. Socially, Ian was a generous and delightful host who enjoyed meeting new people, and traveling to new and interesting places.

Roger J. Smales