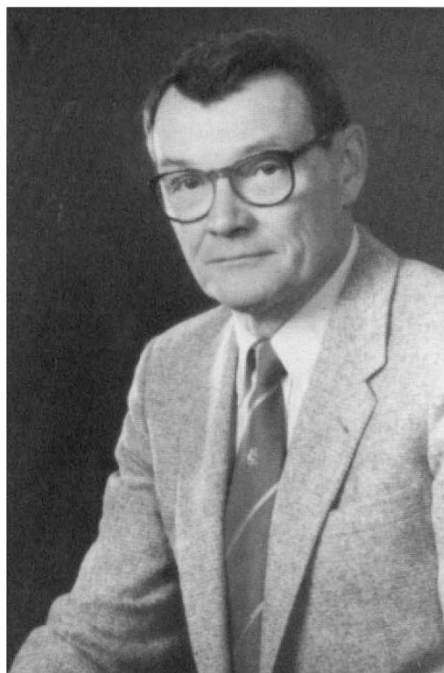


Obituaries



Harry R. Hahn

Medallist of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Harry R. Hahn, MD, 26 March 1988. His illustrious medical career reflects a man of the world who served and cared for people in Afghanistan, Iran, Indonesia and the United States.

Dr Hahn was the former Medical Director of Craig Hospital and was instrumental along with Dr John Young and Dr Robert Jackson in developing the Craig Hospital Spinal Cord Injury and Head Injury Programs. His first and foremost focus was the patient. While having never studied with Sir Ludwig Guttmann, Dr Hahn represented the finest aspects of the paraplegist serving as the primary care physician in spinal cord and head injury. One of his many creative concepts was the neurotrauma unit in which rehabilitation care for head injury and SCI was taken into the neurologic intensive care and subacute care units. In addition to his involvement in professional organisations, Harry was known as an avid golfer and a man who loved a party.

Dr Hahn was born in Logansport, Indiana, USA in 1925. He served in the United States Army in the South Pacific from 1943–46 and received his Degree of Medicine from the University of California in 1952. After serving in Afghanistan, Iran and Indonesia from 1954–65, he returned to the United States for residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Stanford Medical School in Palo Alto, California. He joined the staff at Craig Hospital in 1967 ultimately serving as medical director from 1980–84.

Of all of his accomplishments, Dr Hahn was most honoured by his election as Medallist of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia in 1986 at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Oslo, Norway (*Paraplegia* 24:341–342).

Dr Hahn is survived by his wife, Carole, three sons, Curtis, David and Steven, and two sisters. He will be long remembered by his colleagues, friends and students as a patient's doctor, a fearless leader, and a gentle teacher.

R. Menter, MD
D. Lammertse, MD

Dr Peter John Mitford Retief

The death of Dr Peter John Mitford Retief occurred on 17 February 1988 in Capetown, following a fall.

Dr Retief was born in October 1912. In 1937 he graduated from Capetown Medical School. He specialised in neurology but subsequently established a Spinal Unit at Conradie Hospital, which opened on 1 November 1963.

Dr Retief had the interests of the Spinal Unit at heart for the rest of his life. He encouraged Dr Key to go to Stoke Mandeville to develop an interest in spinal injuries, and he took over the directorship of the unit after the death of Dr Kleyn in 1986.

He was a dear friend, colleague and teacher, to those with whom he worked. He was an upright moral and dedicated man who will be sorely missed by those with whom he worked.

Mr B. P. Gardner

Dr Jean Benassy

Jean Benassy, one of the three French Pioneers in spinal cord injury, died suddenly last year in Paris.

He looked like Mussolini and had a very loud voice, but he was really friendly with everyone he met!

A Member of the French Academy of Surgery, one of his most famous works was on the patho-physiology of the autonomous nervous system, especially the arteriovenous by-pass.

With him disappears a really great figure of the spinal cord injury's world. He was a regular attendee at the Scientific Meetings of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia, presented many papers and took part in discussions. He will be sadly missed.

Dr E. Berard