

## **Dr. Peter Morrin**

### **1931-2007**

Dr Peter Morrin, who has died aged 75, was Professor Emeritus of Medicine at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. In addition to his fine career as a nephrologist, Peter was a medical ethicist, teacher and innovator. During his post-graduate training in St Louis he carried out the first successful use of hemodialysis at that institution, to save the life of a nine-year-old child. Later, here in Kingston, with his colleague Fred Siemonsen, he developed the Kingmed Dialysis machine, a modification of the Kolff dialyser.

Peter was born in 1931, in Dublin. He studied medicine at University College in that city, graduating in 1954. Following a stint at St Vincent's Hospital, he continued his studies at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary and Boston City Hospital. In 1960 he was appointed acting director of the renal division at Barnes Hospital, St Louis, Missouri.

He was appointed in 1961 to the Department of Medicine at Queen's University, and established the renal programme and the nephrology division. In 1967 the first renal unit at Kingston General Hospital was opened under his direction. He oversaw further expansion of the unit in 1982 and again in 1990. The Division of Nephrology at Queen's now consists of eight nephrologists providing care to more than 350 patients receiving dialysis. It has seven satellite centres in the surrounding district, and provides care for more than 100 patients with functioning kidney transplants and almost 600 individuals not yet requiring renal replacement therapy.

Peter retired in 1995 and during his career saw dramatic changes in the management of end stage renal disease. By the time of his retirement treatment had progressed from a time when kidney failure meant death, to the existence of an extensive renal programme to treat kidney patients. No longer did patients have to meet stringent criteria such as being between 15 and 45 years of age, with no other serious disease apart from the renal failure, a capability of being restored to "normal functioning" and a willingness and ability to comply with the restrictions of the programme. Peter wrote a fascinating overview of the development of Nephrology in 1994 available on-line at: [www.jpgmonline.com/text.asp?1994/40/3/109/547](http://www.jpgmonline.com/text.asp?1994/40/3/109/547).

Dr Morrin is survived by his wife Mariella, sons Peter, Hugh and Robin, six grandchildren, sister Alice (Smyth) and brother Francis.

Queen's University has established The **Dr. Peter Morrin Academic Fund** to recognize the 35 years of service Dr. Morrin gave to Queen's University. A memorial website has been created by his son, Hugh at [www.magma.ca/~morrin](http://www.magma.ca/~morrin).

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