

Dr. Peter Morrin – a pioneer, a teacher and a friend to many

Dr Peter Morrin, who has died aged 75 years, was a pioneer in the world of Nephrology, that specialty devoted to patients with medical diseases of the kidney.

During his post-graduate medical training in 1958, Dr. Morrin conducted the first successful use of blood purification – dialysis – to save the life of a nine-year-old child. It was performed at the highly acclaimed Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis.

On his appointment in 1961 to the Department of Medicine at Queen's University, Morrin's work led to the founding of the renal program and the division of nephrology.

This is a division that now consists of eight nephrologists and a program

that provides care to more than 350 patients receiving dialysis. It has satellite centres in Bancroft, Belleville, Brockville, Kingston, Picton, Smiths Falls, and Weenebayko, which care for more than 100 patients with functioning kidney transplants and almost 600 individuals with chronic kidney disease not yet requiring renal replacement therapy.

As with other pioneers in the field, Dr. Morrin was an entrepreneur, developing an artificial kidney – the



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Kingmed Dialysis machine – in concert with his colleague Fred Siemonsen. In 1967, the first renal unit at Kingston General Hospital was opened under Dr. Morrin's direction.

He orchestrated subsequent expansions to the Unit in 1982 and 1990. In 1994, he wrote a comprehensive and fascinating overview of the history of his beloved specialty, available online at: <http://www.jpgmonline.com/text.asp?1994/40/3/109/547>

These fine achievements, however, understate the nature of the man. Peter was a skilled clinician and diagnostician, a respected teacher, an insightful ethicist and a wonderful friend and mentor.

His clinical and diagnostic skills stemmed from his care and compas-

sion, permitting meticulous attention to detail in discovering what ailed his patients.

His high regard as a teacher was derived from the respect with which he treated his students: a respect that was returned by them in magnified fashion.

Dr. Morrin's insights in the realm of medical ethics came from additional training he undertook in this challenging area, but were based on his own sound principles of fairness, beneficence and justice.

As a personal mentor he is, to me, unsurpassed. I feel both privileged and fortunate to have known and worked with him. Peter was highly respected and much loved and will be sorely missed.

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