Peter Warren

Peter Warren died suddenly on May 2, 2011. He will be missed, not only in Winnipeg (Manitoba), but also in the respiratory community in general. I have an extensive history with Peter, and believe that it is important to commemorate him. Peter was educated at Cambridge and Guy's Hospital (United Kingdom), finishing his training at The Royal Brompton Chest Hospital. He came to Manitoba in 1971, equipped with a wife from Saskatchewan, and had worked here ever since. He did many things very, very well.

Peter was a disarming fellow. He virtually never got upset about anything, and his approach to problems could seem circuitous. However, he got things done in a quiet and unassuming way, and made many contributions that sometimes seemed to happen under the radar. He was an excellent doctor; his patients loved and respected him because he clearly cared about them. He was a world-class expert on allergic alveolitis, and was my 'go-to' consultant for difficult asthma cases. He published some 43 peer-reviewed papers, largely on alveolitis and asthma, and was one of the first Canadians to investigate the respiratory health of farmers with an epidemiological study of Carman, Manitoba. He was the first to establish that smokers had lower IgG levels than nonsmokers, and were also less susceptible to allergic alveolitis. He was a very good clinical investigator.

He joined the Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) in 1971, and served two terms as Vice-President and Program Chairman (1978 to 1979, and 1986 to 1988). This was unusual, and reflected the fact that he was very good at making the necessary arrangements for meetings. He was President of the CTS in 1990/1991. For many years he was a linchpin of the organization.

Peter was a superb teacher and administrator. He taught medical students from 1971 to 2011, teaching clinical skills, lung disease and the history of medicine. This role was recognized, and he was Honorary Senior Stick twice – this is a local award students give to valued faculty, which is seldom given twice to the same person. He was Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education at our Faculty from 1990 to 1999, and supervised a major curriculum overhaul, which was truly a thankless but essential task.

Peter was always interested in the history of medicine and contributed to this literature throughout his life. It began with a 1964 paper in *Guy's Hospital Gazette* on tuberculosis, cold climate and consumption, and (may have) ended with a paper in the *Lancet* on asthma as a disease concept. He presented the 2007 CTS Christie lecture on the historical aspects of COPD, which was published in this *Journal*. He earned a diploma in the history of medicine from the United Kingdom and was acquiring a Masters degree in history at the University of

Manitoba (Winnipeg). He was the current President of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine. He was truly a scholar in the traditional sense of the word.

After he officially retired from the University of Manitoba in 2005, he continued to run the history of medicine program and to teach clinical skills in the department of family medicine. His continued contributions will be sadly missed. Our condolences go to his wife Faye, his two sons and three grandchildren.

Nick R Anthonisen