OBITUARY

Denis D’Auria 24/08/1946–19/03/2010
Former Honorary Editor of Occupational Medicine

Denis D’Auria was probably best known in the UK as the editor of the ‘yellow journal’—Occupational Medicine. He was appointed as honorary editor in 1987 and succeeded in relaunching it with an international editorial panel and an expanded subscriber base. He kept the distinctive yellow cover for the journal and made considerable efforts to improve its impact factor while retaining the focus on practice-orientated papers and encouraging submission of papers from overseas—in particular from developing countries. His regular editorials were stimulating and thought provoking, something that I looked forward to reading when each issue of the journal arrived. When Denis discontinued his role as editor in 2000, he left a strong legacy of a thriving popular journal of Occupational Medicine.

Denis was also an expert on occupational medicine and the law. He studied medicine at Trinity College in Dublin and was one of a few UK occupational physicians with both a medical and a legal qualification and possibly the only one to also have a diploma in toxicology and a diploma in medical education. He was a good teacher to his medical students and to trainees in occupational medicine, and he had a special interest in training and assessment. When he was consultant occupational physician at Barts and the London National Health Service Trust (from 1997 to 2004), he designed and conducted special studies modules on toxicology and occupational health, for the medical students. He moved to Cardiff in 2003 to take up his last occupational medicine post before retiring in 2009. This was as senior lecturer in toxicology and occupational medicine at the University of Wales College of Medicine, where he developed and delivered a new masters course in occupational health.

His appointment as Academic Registrar of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Ireland, in 2008 was something that Denis took on with zeal. He reviewed the whole examination structure and process for the faculty and put forward proposals for inclusion of written workplace reports and Objective Structured Clinical Assessments in the membership exams. Denis negotiated for the establishment of the United Arab Emirates as the second overseas examination centre for the faculty (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was the first centre) and was due to conduct the first membership exam in the Emirates in May this year.

We were fortunate in the Emirates in having had Denis visit us in May 2009 when he delivered a seminar to the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences on his experience as an occupational physician at the UK Atomic Energy Authority and as medical officer and head of laboratories at the Joint Research Centre of Euratom in Ispra, northern Italy. He had considerable hands-on experience in occupational medicine, as he was also consultant physician to the ambulance service in the South West Thames region and chief medical officer at Midland Bank from 1992 to 1997.

He leaves a wife, Eithne and children (Deirdre, Ronan and Colum), daughter-in-law (Natalia), grandson (Enzo) and many friends from all over the world.

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