

EULOGY

Professor David Todd joined the Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong as a second year student in 1947.

I had the good fortune of getting to know him 3 years later when I joined the clinical years. He was a year senior to me but already well known among the medical students, because he secured all the prizes available at each examination. Needless to say, he graduated with flying colours in 1952.

Professor AJS McFadzean, the first Professor of Medicine after the Second World War had the wisdom and foresight to recognise David's remarkable potential as a leader in the medical profession, a dedicated teacher, and a promising researcher. His assessment of David was based not only on his intelligence and application but also on his personality, integrity, and loyalty. Not surprisingly, in due course David also became his successor.

Over the next two decades, this 'McFadzean and Todd' dream team brought about remarkable developments in the Department of Medicine. They launched training programmes for physicians in different medical specialties and initiated a number of groundbreaking research projects. In turn, these also benefitted other Hong Kong hospitals and raised standards throughout the entire healthcare system.

In 1974 David took over the helm as Head of the Department of Medicine, and under his leadership it progressed from strength to strength. However, David's aspirations went beyond his own department and even beyond Hong Kong itself. He was largely instrumental in getting postgraduate medical education recognised by the Government as an essential component of specialist training, and in 1992 he became the Founding President of the Academy of Medicine.

As a member of the University Grants Committee his perseverance and persuasive lobbying succeeded in convincing the Government to increase research funding to the Universities and in the late 80s he became the Founding Chairman of The Research Grants Council.

His many achievements won him numerous accolades both locally and internationally. He was honoured with a knighthood in 1995.

In 1997 he retired to Cambridge and we all thought that there he would enjoy a well-deserved rest in a tranquil and scenic environment where he would indulge in his second love music, medicine being his first passion. The cultural environment in Cambridge and its proximity to London must have been the main reason why he chose that location. It was true that he spent

some of the happiest years of his life there. Yet his heart was in Hong Kong and he came back in 2008.

While in Cambridge, he attended many clinical meetings at the Addenbroke's Hospital, met colleagues in the medical school, and read widely in the Libraries. There he put his thoughts on paper and the lengthy article 'Present and Past Tense' he wrote on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Academy of Medicine should be a blueprint for the development of the Academy in the next decade and beyond.

Professor David Todd stands out as the doyen of medicine in Hong Kong. Perhaps more than anyone else to-date his vision and tireless efforts in teaching and research as well as his clinical acumen have inspired generations of doctors and shaped the practice of medicine in Hong Kong, which is now widely acclaimed as being world class. Despite all his achievements he remained a modest person, though others saw him as one of the best teachers in the Medical Faculty, a trusted friend of his students, and a physician who was always dedicated to the service of patients.

His legacy to Hong Kong is unique and enduring, and will go well beyond the limits of this tiny island.

Professor Rosie Young

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