

# George Edward Price

By Kam Shojania, MD, FRCPC

George passed away at the Vancouver General Hospital on Friday, October 19th, 2012. Born in Winnipeg, he moved to Victoria with his family when he was nine. He graduated from Victoria High School, then later attended Victoria College, the University of Chicago, and was a graduate of the University of British Columbia (UBC) medical school, class of 1959.

After completing his fellowship in Internal Medicine, he began his practice in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology in Vancouver. One of the original B.C. rheumatologists, George was the first who took care of sick patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), vasculitis, and unusual diseases. George was a clinician and teacher, taking great pride in his work. Back in the 1960s, the UBC Division of Rheumatology included Dr. Harold Robinson and Dr. Denys Ford. George was their first Fellow in 1964! Dr. Robert Offer recalled that "George was fearless in academic battle and I learned a lot while listening to George and Denys 'debate' clinical points, since neither was afraid to state his mind!"

George was an instructor at UBC from 1965 to 1975, then an Associate Professor at UBC from 1975 to 1989, when he became honorary staff while he was at King Fahd National Guard Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He was the first medical director of the UBC Health Sciences Centre Hospital, a post he held for 10 years, which was then followed by three years as medical director of the King Fahd Hospital. This time in Saudi Arabia included working alongside U.S. military medical personnel during Operation Desert Storm. Upon his return to Vancouver George resumed his medical practice until his retirement in 2000.

He made significant contributions to the community through his involvement with The Arthritis Society (TAS), Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Vancouver, and the B.C. Rehabilitation Foundation. He was a friend and physician to many judges and lawyers and was active in the Medical Legal Society.

George had a tremendous love of the outdoors and spent some of his happiest moments hiking with John Boone, and later, his son Bryan; he also enjoyed boating, fly-fishing with Ray, skiing, and rafting the northern rivers.



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He was a Medical Officer with 19 Wing Royal Canadian Air Force (Aux) during his younger days and enjoyed the ongoing camaraderie of his squadron mates for over 50 years.

George is survived by his wife Dianne, son Bryan (Lori), his high-energy grandsons Colin George and Scott Roderick, and his daughter Megan.

The family would like to thank Dr. Tom Gibson, friend and family physician, for his care and compassion, and Dr. Joseph Connors, who George respected greatly, for his wisdom, support and honesty as he helped George with his leukemia. We would also like to thank Dr. Callum Reid (son of rheumatologist, Dr. Graham Reid) who helped George and us through his last few days. Thank you to the nursing staff of the Vancouver General Hospital: no one could ask for better care. A special thank you to Helga and Sarah from the Community Healthcare Nursing; you all eased his burden.

A celebration of George's life was held November 2, 2012, at the HMCS DISCOVERY, located Stanley Park, Vancouver.

For those who wish, the family would be honoured by a gift in memoriam to the Dr. G.E. Price Family Trust of the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast B.C., TAS, or the B.C. Rehab Foundation.

*Dr. Kam Shojania, on behalf of the family of Dr. George Price and the rheumatology community of British Columbia*

Read more of Dr. Price's contributions to the CRAJ:  
<http://bit.ly/RvPrja>