



We are much saddened by the loss of Professor Hamish Barber, Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians and the first Professor of General Practice in the University of Glasgow, on 26th August after a long illness.

Professor Hamish Barber was well known to many of us and had a very close relationship with our College. He was awarded Honorary Fellowship of our College in the inaugural conferment ceremony in 1987 in recognition of his contribution to the establishment of family medicine as a medicine and academic discipline in Hong Kong.

Professor Barber was the speaker for the full 2-weeks of the first Annual Refresher Course of our College in 1980. He was instrumental to the founding of the Fellowship examination of our College for which he served as an external examiner in the first examination in 1984.

Professor Hamish Barber was the teacher, trainer and mentor of many general practitioners in Hong Kong at a time when training and continuing medical education opportunities for us were hard to find. He provided training to the first two local medical graduates who became academic general practitioners, Maxwell Tse in 1981 and myself in 1986. He had helped many other HK general practitioners to have attachments to general practices in the UK and to prepare for the MRCGP examination. Professor Barber was the first HKCGP visiting professor in general practice of the University of Hong Kong in 1985 when the General Practice Unit was first formed. His last visit to Hong Kong was in 1991 when he served again as the HKCGP visiting professor in general practice of the University of Hong Kong.

Professor Hamish Barber was born in Dunfermline, Scotland. He graduated with a degree in medicine in 1957 and then completed his MD from Edinburgh University. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Professor Barber started his career in general practice in 1964 and his passion for the discipline had continued to grow over the next thirty years. He was a pioneer in academic general practice by being the first general practitioner to be appointed as Senior Lecturer in General Practice in the University of Glasgow in 1972. His

academic achievements in medical education and research in general practice were recognized by his appointment as the first Professor of General Practice in the University of Glasgow. "The textbook of General Practice Medicine" was the first of its kind, which had been used as the standard text in the University of Hong Kong for many years. Professor Barber's innovation of the primary care team model had set the present-day standard of quality care. Professor Barber retired in 1993 after he had established a strong academic department and nurtured many professorial successors including Professor David Hannay, Stuart Murray, Frank Sullivan, Tim Usherwood and Jill Morrison.

Professor Hamish Barber was a giant in academic general practice but he was a very gentle man in life. He made us all call him Hamish irrespective of our rank or experience. One always felt respected and encouraged in his company. Life was short for a man with so much wisdom, vision, kindness and energy; his art and our memory of him will last a long long time.

*Professor Cindy L K Lam*

Student of Professor Hamish Barber

