

OBITUARY

Professor Andrew K. Burroughs (1953–2014)

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Andrew Burroughs, who has died at the age of 60 years, was a stalwart of British hepatology and an international clinical scientist of considerable stature. His short illness truncated a retirement that he eagerly anticipated and would have been well deserved. Andy was quick to talk about retirement in the years running up to his 60th birthday, although there was a sense that retirement was to be more about prioritizing his professional interests rather than a retreat from a medical career characterized by giving and achieving.

Born in London to a British father and Italian mother, Andy was educated in Rome and later Canterbury and remained fluent in Italian throughout his life. He graduated from the University of Liverpool at the top of his class in 1976 with a clutch of distinctions and prizes. He took up his first appointment at the Royal Free Hospital, London, in 1979 as registrar to Dame Shiela Sherlock, starting a professional affiliation that would extend for 35 years. Portal hypertension was an early and fruitful interest, and from 1988 onwards, he became a prolific investigator in the area of liver transplantation. However, he was never one to be typecast and maintained a multifaceted and broad-based career, clinically and academically.

A fascination with data, a hunger for evidence, an ability to collaborate and a drive to succeed were characteristics of his work. Three papers dealing with survival after liver transplantation, liver transplantation for acute liver failure and MELD in the setting of liver transplantation involved a total of just over 60 000 patients. Dogma was easily challenged as illustrated by research demonstrating that corticosteroid-free immunosuppression was feasible and hepatitis B recurrence could be prevented without the use of hepatitis B immunoglobulin. However, by his own assessment, probably his greatest achievement was the instigation and delivery of the TMC trial evaluating calcineurin inhibitors that definitively answered a simple but important question. The TMC study was described in a Lancet editorial as setting a new gold standard for the design of immunosuppression studies in liver transplantation.

ESOT, ELITA and ILTS are transplant-related organizations that have benefitted from his service on committee or in a leadership role (he was chairman of ELITA from 2009 to 2012). He was also the inaugural Vice-President for



Hepatology of the BSG, a society that honoured him with the award of both the Shiela Sherlock and Sir Arthur Hurst lectures. EASL and BASL conferred lifetime achievement awards in 2013 and ILTS will do so, posthumously, in June 2014.

Andy was generous with his time and support, particularly to research fellows and clinical trainees. He was responsible for over 100 research fellows from 17 countries, and their loyalty to him was matched only by his pride in their achievements. Together, they published over 800 papers. He leaves his wife, Claire, and 3 children.