BIOGRAPHY BIOГРАФІА

In memoriam Charles Raymond Pax George (1940–2019)

ARCHIVES OF HELLENIC MEDICINE 2020, $37(Suppl\ 2):20-21$ Apxeia eachnikh Σ 1atpikh Σ 2020, $37(\Sigma u \mu n \lambda \ 2):20-21$

J.S. Cameron

Kings College, London, UK

Eις μνήμην: Charles Raymond Pax George (1940–2019)

Περίληψη στο τέλος του άρθρου

Key words

Aboriginals renal failure Charles Raymond Pax George Concord Hospital in Sydney John Jacob Abel Killora Australia

The International Association for the History of Nephrology (IAHN) has lost one of its leading members in the field of the history of nephrology: Charles George. He died in London shortly after attending the IAHN meeting in Larissa last September, during emergency surgery to treat active bacterial endocarditis. Just a few days previously, he had been awarded the fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and a few of us had the pleasure of dining with him and Elizabeth in the College. He is –and long will be–much missed.

Charles was born in Killora, NSW, Australia and attended school and university in Sydney, graduating in 1966 and being awarded FRACP in 1975. He began work in nephrology almost by accident, and never stopped. He worked in Seattle with haemodialysis pioneer Belding Scribner, then at Guys with myself and Chisholm Ogg in London, doing research on platelet physiology in renal disease. He went back to a post in the Concord Hospital in Sydney in 1973, where he spent his working life there as a renal physician.

Charles set up a haemodialysis unit and a transplant programme. He realised the special needs of Aboriginal Australians, in whom renal failure is so common, pioneering the use of the disposable dialysis REDY unit for use in often primitive outback dwellings, where water was in short supply.

Early on, he developed an interest in medical history which naturally focussed on nephrology. He was a meticulous researcher, chasing down obscure references and delighting in original notebooks and documents. He also favoured original and sometimes controversial conclusions to his work. He obtained a degree in history in the 1995 for a critical look at the work of John Jacob Abel, and later achieved a PhD. He was the only member of the IAHN with a degree also in History. He delighted in words and language, and assembled an impressive bibliography. He became a President of the IAHN having been a founder member in 1994. He assembled an impressive collection of old books dealing with nephrology, which visitors could trawl through.

He was excellent company, and always up for an argument or a discussion, the two blending effortlessly, but thoughtful and balanced. A brief essay into politics was not however successful. In his later years, he spent half of his time in Oxford in England, a country of which he was now also a citizen.

He was accompanied at many IAHN meetings by his wife Elizabeth, née Gordon, whose company we all enjoyed. He is survived by her, two sons and two daughters. CHARLES RAYMOND PAX GEORGE 21

ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

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J.S. CAMERON

Kings College, London, Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο

Αρχεία Ελληνικής Ιατρικής 2020, 37(Συμπλ 2):20-21

Η Διεθνής Ένωσις της Ιστορίας της Νεφρολογίας (IAHN) απώλεσε ένα από τα ηγετικά στελέχη της. Ο Charles George απεβίωσε στο Λονδίνο τον Σεπτέμβριο του 2019 μετά από εγχείρηση για σταφυλοκοκκική ενδοκαρδίτιδα έχοντας μόλις μεταβεί εκεί από τη Λάρισα όπου συμμετείχε ενεργώς, όπως πάντα, στο XI International Congress of ISHN. Ο Charles γεννήθηκε στο Killora της βορειοδυτικής Αυστραλίας και αποφοίτησε από την Ιατρική Σχολή του Πανεπιστημίου του Σύδνεϋ. Μετά από μακροχρόνια μετεκπαίδευση στο Σιάτλ και το Λονδίνο επιστρέφει το 1973 στο Νοσοκομείο Concord του Σύδνεϋ όπου εργάσθηκε για το υπόλοιπο της ενεργούς ιατρικής σταδιοδρομίας του. Οργάνωσε ένα μεγάλο πρόγραμμα αιμοκάθαρσης και μεταμόσχευσης με ιδιαίτερη έμφαση στις μεγάλες ανάγκες των Αβοριγανών λόγω των κακών συνθηκών υγιεινής στις κοινότητές τους. Από νωρίς ενδιαφέρθηκε για την Ιστορία και ήταν το μόνο μέλος της ΙΑΗΝ με διδακτορικό στο αντίστοιχο αντικείμενο. Το πάθος του ήταν η γλωσσολογία και η συλλογή σπάνιων βιβλίων. Συμμετείχε ενεργά στις δραστηριότητες της ΙΑΗΝ, της οποίας διετέλεσε και Πρόεδρος. Ήταν εξαίρετος ομιλητής και πάντα με χαρά τον συναντούσαμε μαζί με τη σύζυγό του Elizabeth. Θα μας λείψει και τώρα και στο μέλλον.

Λέξεις ευρετηρίου: Αβοριγανοί, νεφρική νόσος, Charles Raymond Pax George, John Jacob Abel, Killora Αυστραλίας, Νοσοκομείο Concord, Σύδνεϋ

Corresponding author:

J.S. Cameron, 3 Townhead Court, Melmerby, Cumbria CA10 1HG, UK e-mail: jstewart.cameron2@btopenworld.com

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