



Dr A Peter Wright Scholarship through The Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM)
in memory of Dr A Peter Wright Past President of the SOM

Purpose

- An annual Scholarship of course fees (currently around £3,250) paid directly to a course provider for a medical doctor for a Diploma in Occupational Medicine who can show they could not otherwise afford such training.
- Up to £750 available for subsistence costs.

The Scholar would be expected to act as an ambassador for occupational medicine and the SOM.

A SOM Scholarship fund template to be completed for all applications.

Background - Dr Alwyn Peter Wright MB,BS, DObstRCOG, DIH, FFOM



Dr Alwyn Peter Wright (known as Peter in his professional life) was born in Hull on 18th November 1928. The family later moved to London for his father's work as an engineer on the railways. Peter's senior school days were during World War II and at one point the family moved back to Hull to avoid the bombing in London, only to be bombed there so moved back to London.

From an early age Peter wanted to be a doctor. He successfully applied to study Medicine at University College, London and qualified in 1952. Upon qualifying, he worked as a House Surgeon at Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield firstly in Orthopaedics and then in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 1953- 54. During the next two years he completed National Service as Medical Officer in charge at Canterbury Garrison and then as MO in charge at the Families Hospital at Bovington Camp, Dorset. Subsequently he entered general practice based at Wye and then at Bath, in 1956-57.

In 1957, Peter took up a post as Industrial Medical Officer at the Richard, Thomas & Baldwin Steelworks in Ebbw Vale. This started his career path in occupational medicine during which he did work in heavy industry (Steel, Ebbw Vale 1957-63 & Teesside 1970-77), Engineering (Hardy Spicer, Birmingham 1963-1970) and Chemicals (ICI, 1977- 1988). During his time in Birmingham, he also held part-time Clinical Assistantships at Birmingham Skin Hospital (Dermatology) and

Birmingham Accident Hospital (Casualty). Both appointments informed his work in Occupational Medicine.

His post as Senior Medical officer at ICI Wilton Works (1977- 88) presented new challenges learning about the effects of chemicals used in the Works including mercury, benzene, vinyl chloride and ethylene oxide. He became a key member of a number of European Committees (CEFIC, ECETOC, CONCAW) set up to investigate the emerging health risks of these chemicals. In this he thoroughly enjoyed the travel and working with doctors of other nationalities that was part of these responsibilities.

Peter served as President of The Society of Occupational Medicine 1987-1988 and was awarded Honorary Membership of the Society in March 2002 in recognition of his 'contribution to occupational health and to the Society itself'. In 1986 he was invested as an Officer in the order of St John for 30 years of service.

On retiring from ICI, he worked as a Consultant in Occupational Medicine for a number of companies, including Smith & Nephew and Yorkshire Water Board.

Peter was passionate and principled about his role as a doctor. Throughout his career he negotiated with management and unions to ensure healthy working conditions for all. He worked hard to achieve his degree and to establish his career and was always mindful to help others in their careers.

Peter met his wife Margaret when they were both studying in sixth form at Enfield Grammar school. They married several years later and for a while Margaret was the bread winner whilst Peter completed his medical studies. They formed a strong unit with Margaret providing unfailing support to Peter through his career. They had four daughters and always encouraged them to follow their own career paths.

Outside of work Peter was a keen hill walker throughout his life combining this with his love of plants and gardening, with a particular interest in alpine plants. In his retirement years he was a member of the ICI retirees walking club 'The Last of the Summer Wine' which gave him opportunity to explore the North York Moors, an area which he loved.

He died on 4th June 2010 after several years' illness with Alzheimer's disease.

AJS. 23.11.23