

terms. One wonders what more he might have achieved had his particular talents been fostered, and whether he might have had a happier and more fulfilled life in the long term.

These questions can be generalised to 'everyday' cases of Asperger's syndrome seen in clinical practice with a view to exploring how best to help people presenting with the condition.

Declaration of Interest: None

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Obituary

Robert Evan Kendell CBE (1935-2002)

Brian O'Shea

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"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants". Isaac Newton, 1676.

Professor Bob Kendell will be remembered as one of the most influential psychiatrists of the late 20th century. He was born in Yorkshire, studied science at Cambridge and qualified in medicine from King's College Hospital in London.

After being involved in the WHO International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia¹ during the late 1960s, Kendell went to Edinburgh as Reader and then Professor of Psychiatry. He was Dean of Medicine in the late 1980s and then Chief Medical Officer for Scotland.

Although his research horizons were broad, the two papers of Kendell's that most influenced this writer were reviews on ECT (which he believed was undervalued)² and alcoholism (for which he advocated *price increases*).³

His main contribution was probably in his critical analysis of psychiatric nosology.⁴ A cohort of psychiatrists will recall

Kendell and (Andrew K) Zeally's *Companion to Psychiatric Studies* (3rd to 5th editions).⁵

Although the pinnacle of his career was as President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists during the late 1990s, Kendell was still publishing to the end. The end came when he died suddenly from a silent cerebral neoplasm.

Who was the man behind the public persona? R E Kendell was a rather dour man of deep integrity who stuck to his guns when lesser mortals would have ducked. He worked extremely hard. One colleague who worked with him told me that he took only two week's holidays a year lest his patients be neglected. He was scrupulously honest, even regarding his own research mistakes. He was a deeply genuine individual who encouraged others. Also, he was a good advertisement for physical fitness.

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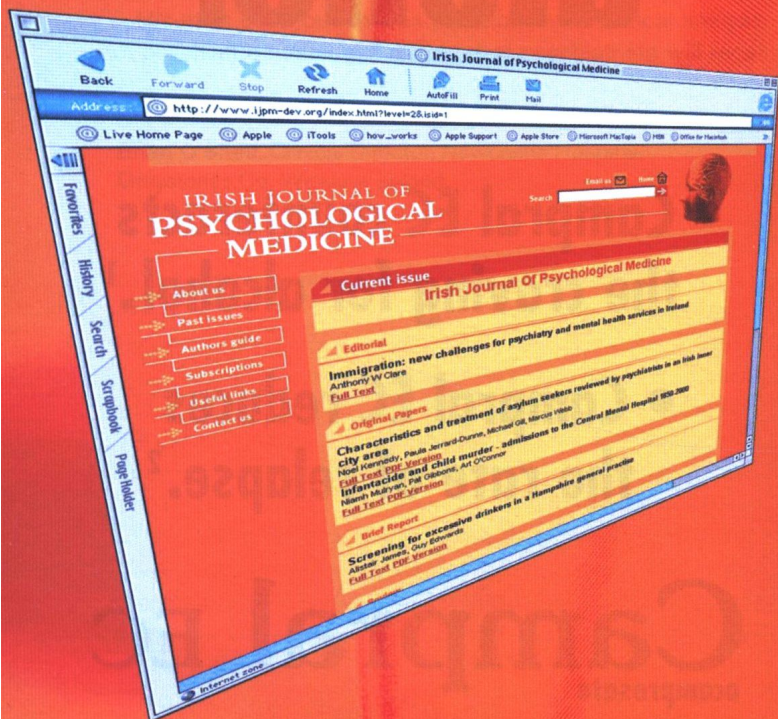
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