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# Obituaries

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**Rachel Rosser**, formerly Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University College Hospital and Middlesex School of Medicine, London

Professor Rosser died at the age of 56 as a result of an accident at her home. She was one of the leading psychiatrists of her generation who became most widely known as a result of her television appearances following the King's Cross fire, so helping to establish post-traumatic stress disorder in the public mind.

Rachel Rosser started life in Coventry during the Blitz and grew up in great poverty. Her talents took her to King's High School Warwick, where she was consistently top of her class and then to Newnham College, Cambridge as a scholar. She qualified MB Cambridge, 1967, at St Thomas' Hospital Medical School. Her subsequent career included Guy's, the Maudsley, Queen Elizabeth Birmingham, King's College, Charing Cross, and UCL/Middlesex. She was elected MRCP(UK) in 1970 and proceeded FRCP in 1985. In 1973 she passed the MRCPsych and was elected to the Fellowship in 1984.

Her patients knew her as a deeply caring clinician who successfully helped them after others had given up trying to relieve their suffering. She was able to do this because she first became a member of the Royal College of Physicians before entering psychiatry, and as a psychiatrist she was both deeply versed in pharmacology and in psychotherapy where she had developed her skills with the help of a personal analysis. As a result she was able to combine many disciplines, and with her unique personality, deploy these for the benefit of her patients. She introduced liaison psychiatry into both Charing Cross Hospital and the Middlesex Hospital.

Her widest clinical impact came with the setting up of a Stress Clinic after the King's Cross fire. This clinic, which at its peak had more than 1000 victims on its register, subsequently supported patients from the Marchioness and Lockerbie disasters.

Her research interests were similarly widespread and derived from the problems faced by her patients and their doctors. At the widest level this involved pioneering with her husband in the 1960s, a now well established subject, Quality of Life Assessment. She also did research in more traditional areas such as evaluating the success of psychotherapies, pharmaceutical regimes and psychosomatic approaches. She wrote power-

fully and simply about the way victims should be handled and the impact on the healers.

She was very conscious of the limits of traditional medicine. She took early retirement from University College London, becoming Emeritus Professor, to take time to explore new ideas for helping patients. At her death, she was at an advanced stage of planning a research unit in Norwich to explore the ideas of multi-faith Health and Healing with a view to establishing where benefits could be best obtained from a wide range of practices. She was well known internationally among leaders in this area and she had discussed her ideas and received support from Mother Teresa.

She cared passionately about all she undertook. Her care for her patients and all those around her, and her entertaining lively personality disguised her brilliant mind. She is survived by her husband, Vincent Watts, Vice Chancellor, University of East Anglia, and two children, Ben and Hannah.

ALAN PREECE

**Keith Rae Hoseason Wardrop**, formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Douglas Inch Centre, Glasgow

Keith Rae Hoseason Wardrop's contribution to the development of forensic psychiatry is outstanding. Early in his professional career, he was aware that delinquent and anti-social behaviour could indicate underlying emotional maladjustment and mental ill health. He believed that it was possible to identify early those factors which could be modified and treated. To that end, he established the Douglas Inch Centre of Forensic Psychiatry in Glasgow.

Dr Wardrop was born on 27 June 1917 in Biggar, the son of the Reverend Charles Inglis Wardrop and Helen Hamilton Rae Wardrop. He was educated at Biggar High School and studied medicine at Edinburgh University, graduating MBChB in 1939. Shortly afterwards he was conscripted into the Royal Air Force and served in North Africa and the Middle East. Following demobilisation, he specialised in psychiatry and obtained the DPM(Lond) in 1951 and elected FRCPsych in 1972. He was an assistant physician at Gartnavel Royal Hospital, Glasgow and in Aberdeen. He was appointed Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist to the Western Regional