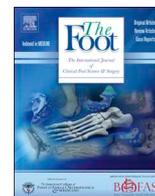


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Editorial



Professor David I Rowley (1951 – 2019)

**Goodbye, Thank You and Sorry: A tribute to a legend in the truest sense of the word
May your soul rest in eternal peace.**

It is with immense sadness that I announce the passing of Professor David I. Rowley on Friday 22nd February 2019, aged 67, in the work place that he loved most – Orthopaedic Ward 19, Ninewells Hospital & Medical School, Dundee, Scotland. When I received the sad news at 6.20 pm, I was taken by surprise. I cut my meeting short and headed straight to Ward 19 where I met with distraught and emotional consultant colleagues in tears at the loss of a great mentor. I managed to hold back my tears in an attempt to comfort them before slipping quietly into David's room. I touched his forehead and said three things before I left: **Goodbye, Thank You and Sorry.**

Goodbye on behalf of all those who knew him; goodbye to the great man he was; goodbye to the vision you gave us; goodbye to the legacy you left us with; goodbye as you left us all too soon.

Thank you for everything he has done for us; thank you for the opportunities he created for us; thank you for taking Dundee Orthopaedics to the world and bringing the world to Dundee; thank you for his sincere friendship; thank you for welcoming me into his family as a valued 'adopted son' when I arrived in 1988 as an overseas master's student from a torn country, Lebanon, ravaged from civil war at that time; thank you for being my professional father; thank you for my career.

Sorry for not being next you when you died; sorry for not seeing you two hours earlier when I was told you were in the hospital; sorry that you could not celebrate with us the milestone of the 25th Anniversary of the Dundee MCh (Orth) degree that you instigated in 1993; sorry we could not fulfil your wish to lecture on the MCh (Orth) this year despite us pencilling your lecture in the timetable for May, too late now; sorry that I could not fulfil a main wish for you to visit our new home despite finally arranging it in our diaries for 17th March 2019, which proved to be too late!

TORT and the MCh (Orth) Community are still mourning its founder; the world of orthopaedics is mourning one of the 20th/21st

century's greatest surgeons, scholars and visionaries; I am mourning my MSc and PhD supervisor, mentor, colleague, predecessor and great personal friend; my family is mourning a great family friend – David, may your soul rest in eternal peace. David was a great man in the truest sense of the word in that he touched the lives of 1000s of patients, improving their quality of life, and 1000s of individuals helping them to shape their careers. I am privileged to have been one of them and to be associated with such a legend whose legacy will remain for generations to come. David was a past President of the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (BOFAS, when it was called BOFSS) and one of the past key supporters of The Foot journal and served as a member of its Editorial Board since inception until 2001 when he paved the way for me to replace him.

David is quite rightly regarded as a visionary surgeon, a teacher, a scholar, a pioneer, a friend and a hero, all in equal measure. He looked upon everybody, no matter what colour, creed or education, as equals and always had time for all his staff, students and colleagues irrespective if they agreed with him or not on some of his unorthodox forward, and lateral, thinking. I personally disagreed with him sometimes as any son would do with his father ... and then you get over it! He always believed in a multidisciplinary approach, the same approach as The Foot journal, to deal with complex tasks such as the "foot & ankle" structure and as such he established an orthopaedic department encompassing in addition to surgeons many other healthcare professionals from bioengineers to physiotherapists to podiatrists to orthotists to prosthetists etc... We will miss his guidance, his reassurance, his infectious enthusiasm and his cheeky laughter.

David began his medical studies at Aberdeen University in 1969 and was a lecturer at the University of Sheffield and a senior lecturer at the University of Manchester before taking up a post at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School in 1988 as Professor of the University Department of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery, building the department's international reputation and innovation in the area of joint replacement complemented by a worldwide service in Clinical Audit Outcomes with over £20 million in grant income. In 1996, he led by example and worked tirelessly to secure the first excellent outcome for the Dundee MBChB curriculum that has been over the last eight years amongst the top 10 medical curriculums in the UK. He served the School of Medicine with loyalty and integrity, and was the Deputy Dean during Professor Brian Burchell's tenure as Dean from 2003-2006. David was the instigator of the MCh (Orth) Degree at Dundee in 1993 and served as Director of Education for the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and was also visiting professor of surgical education at the University of Edinburgh from 2004 until 2009. He relinquished his chair and his post at the university in 2008. He gained many distinctions during his illustrious career (I would need at least 10 pages to list them all!), including the Gold College Medal and Syme's Medal, both awarded by the

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Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He also served abroad as a war surgeon for the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Sudan and Afghanistan. After 40 years Professor Rowley retired from offering clinical advice in 2014.

David was an exceptional man who achieved excellence in everything he did. This was very evident from the many tributes received via email, WhatsApp, Facebook, messenger, etc... not only from colleagues who he got on well with, from students who he successfully mentored, and from patients that regarded him as their hero but equally from colleagues that disagreed with his forward and unorthodox thinking. The funeral and the Celebration of David's life on 7th March 2019 was heart-breaking with many faces that I have not seen for over two decades gathering in Dundee with tears in their eyes to pay their respects and final farewells to a man that rightly played an important role in shaping their careers.

David's contribution to the world of orthopaedics is immense with over 400 peer reviewed papers (latest in 2018!), books, chapters in

books, reports, conference papers, industry designs, clinical audit, etc... and many on the foot and ankle with notably one book – Surgery of Disorders of the Foot & Ankle that was published in 1996 and co-edited with Basil Helal, Andrea Cracchiolo III, and Mark Myerson. This book won in 1997 a Commendation in the Book Competition by the British Medical Association (BMA) and was described as “*the best current available reference*” in a review published in The Foot in 1998.

On behalf of the Foot Editorial Board, the International Advisory Board, the valuable and loyal reviewers, the contributors past and present, the publishers and all those associated with The Foot, I would like to dedicate this issue to Professor Rowley's memory.

Goodbye David, thank you for everything and sorry that you have left us so early - may your soul rest in eternal peace.

Professor Rami J Abboud
Editor-in-Chief, The Foot