Henry Barnett, Robarts founder and philanthropist, dies at 94

**By Jason Winders**

Famed medical researcher Dr. Henry Barnett, co-founder of the Robarts Research Institute, who served as its first scientific director, died peacefully in the company of family on Oct. 20. He was 94.

Tributes to the famed physician have been flowing in since the news became public.

“For those of us who were trained by Barney, it is a legacy that will stay with us forever. He instilled in all of us a sense that nothing less than excellence was acceptable, that we had a responsibility to practice medicine at the highest level using all available evidence and when it was not available, to work toward creating it,” said Dr. Michael J. Strong, Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

“He pushed each of us to our limits of our clinical skills, and then, pushed us beyond. Being ill-prepared when presenting a case was really not an option. Meandering in a case presentation usually meant an abrupt ending to the presentation – a skill that many of us still treasure to this day. But beyond this, he was the consummate gentleman who taught us the value of family and of dedication to the environment. While we perhaps use the term too often, his passing truly marks the loss of an icon in our clinical world. He will be greatly missed,” he added.

Barnett is best known for directing many of the most important large multi-centered clinical trials in stroke, including the first randomized trial to show aspirin prevents stroke. Supported by the National Institutes of Health in the United States, Barnett showed a then widely used surgical treatment for stroke patients involving carotid artery bypass was less effective than good medical treatment.

“This is a sad day for Western and Robarts,” said Western President Amit Chakma. “Dr. Barnett – fondly known as Barney to his countless colleagues and friends on campus and beyond – brought great prestige to our institution, not only through his world-class research, teaching and service as a faculty member, but also through his academic leadership, as a co-founder of Robarts and through his generous philanthropy in support of medical research and education.”

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne in England, Barnett moved with his parents to Canada as a child. He entered medicine at the University of Toronto where he graduated in 1944. He did his junior rotating internship at the Toronto General Hospital and later completed training in neurology at Queen Square in London, UK, and later working as a research assistant at Oxford, he obtained a fellowship from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He was a neurologist at Toronto General Hospital from 1952-67 and Chief of the Division of Neurology at Sunnybrook Medical Centre from 1966-69.

In 1969, he was invited to become Chief of the Division of Neurology at Western University and Victoria Hospital. From 1974-84, he served as Chairman of the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences. In 1986, he co-founded the Robarts Research Institute and was named its first Scientific Director. Barnett is most famous for the North American Symptomatic Carotid Endarterectomy Trial (NASCET), which evaluated whether or not clearing a clogged neck artery in the hopes of averting stroke actually reduced a patient’s risk of stroke or dying.

“No one knew who needed surgery and who didn’t,” Barnett said in a 2012 interview. “So the director of the (U.S.) National Institute of Neurological Disease and...
Not enough magic in pedagogy for this change

Language evolves. Often for the better. But we can’t let the ones to decide us. Recently, I committed my dissertation focused on the life and experience of black boxer from the 1890s in the Deep South of America, to compiling a complete family history of his life, role, and impact on the wider society. In a recent discussion, there were some interesting insights into the language used to describe and define experiences of Jim Crow America. Today, the words used to describe and define him are gone. I did not treat those words lightly. I often shuddered at writing them—only doing so out of necessity. But I presented them in the final product not to shock or titillate the reader, but to reveal the wealth of subjects that are necessary to understand a story of such historical importance.

Admittedly, there was some humor to be found. Reading newspapers of the era, some words are difficult to pick out as the most correct or appropriate. Some of the most incorrect terms used further exploration as they found, unfortunately, hidden in other words, and mixed complete the complete go, instead, to modern ears. Who knew the cacophony of racism we have left behind?

I thought of this linguistic evolution as I read about University of Toronto professor Jordan Peterson, who has often been involved in many controversies, to the point of being expelled from his classes. He has a really really smart mind at the end of his life, and I understand it. He has been very wrong about a lot of issues, and I disagree with his thinking on the topic. His 2000 book, “Three Critical Questions of Western Academic Freedom,” is a must-read for anyone interested in this topic.

But what uncomfortable keystrokes.

I did not treat those words lightly. I often shuddered at writing them—only doing so out of necessity. But I presented them in the final product not to shock or titillate the reader, but to reveal the wealth of subjects that are necessary to understand a story of such historical importance.

Like many, I err on the side of linguistic legitimacy and follow language that enjoys the broadest usage. That is the journalist in me. Flights of fancy and broadening of language can be dangerous and lead to the wrong conclusions.

But unlike the ones to decide us, we have left behind.

Especially when it comes to our own language.

The American Language

H.L. Mencken once wrote in his book, “The American Language” that the use of words is an arbitrary invention that is not something we need to pay much attention to. However, it is important to note that words are not just arbitrary inventions. They are, in fact, very powerful tools that we use to communicate with each other.

We point society in a direction. But there is no requirement for society to follow us. It is up to us to decide what direction we want to take. And it is our responsibility to use language in a way that is fair and just.

The problem is that we often do not have the ability to control what words are used to describe us. This is especially true when it comes to minority groups and those who are marginalized.

But we can still make a difference. We can use our power to create a more inclusive language that is fair and just.

Some of the racist terms needed further explanation as they had, once again, been replaced by modern ears. But the words themselves are still there, and they need to be addressed.

When it comes to language, we need to be aware of the power of words and how they can be used to shape our understanding of the world.

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Wynne recently stood in the legislature to apologize for almost every facet of life for Indigenous Canadians, representatives of the Crown, Indigenous communities policy today.”

attitudes that were used to justify the establishment water crises on reserves, sky-high suicide rates among by the Canadian government. What the TRC looked at Canadians recognize this, either.

For true reconciliation, all Canadians must participate in the conversation. by Joanna Quinn

E ven for most Canadians to think ofcolonialism as long ago and far away, Indigenous Canadians, especially the survivors of residential schools, have lived through the trauma of this dark period of our past. And for many, the struggle to heal that trauma continues today.

There is a need for effective apologies that all Canadians feel are genuine and sincere. And there is a need for a true understanding of the past and the continued effects on Indigenous communities. And there is a need for reconciliation that includes all Canadians.

In the wake of recent events, there has been a growing awareness of the need for reconciliation and a call for action.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) was established by the federal government in 2008 to investigate the history of Canadian residential schools. The TRC investigated the history of residential schools in Canada and the impact of the policy on Indigenous peoples.

The TRC issued a final report in 2015, which included 94 recommendations for reconciliation.

One of the recommendations was the establishment of a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which is now observed on September 30th each year.

The TRC report highlighted the need for reconciliation and acknowledged the need for a true understanding of the past and the continued effects on Indigenous communities.

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Polo team mounts up for new season

BY PAUL MAYNE

athletics

Sifton’s insight led to a meeting with the University of Toronto’s Medicine and Science Faculty. As a result, the university will have a polo team, Sifton said, with funding to buy horses and equipment. It will also have a polo facility, he added, near the main campus. The team will be run by a coach, who will be hired by the university. The coach will be responsible for recruiting players, organizing matches, and ensuring that all aspects of the polo experience are enjoyable and safe for participants.

Sifton said he is excited about the potential of polo in education and how it can be used to foster a sense of community and teamwork. “Polo is a sport that requires a lot of cooperation and coordination,” he said. “It’s a sport that can bring people together and help them to work towards a common goal.”

The Canadian Polo Association is working with universities and polo clubs across the country to establish polo programs and teams. Sifton said he believes the sport has the potential to become a popular and competitive sport in Canada, and he is confident that it will continue to grow in the future.

In the meantime, Sifton said he is looking forward to seeing the new team in action. “I’m excited to see how it will develop,” he said. “I’m looking forward to seeing the players grow and improve.”

Sifton’s passion for polo is evident in his approach to the sport. He has been interested in polo since he was a child and has spent many years learning and playing the game. He is now ready to bring his expertise to the new team and help it to become a strong force in Canadian polo.

Polo is a sport that is growing in popularity in Canada, and Sifton is excited about the potential it has as a competitive sport. He is looking forward to seeing the new team in action and is confident that it will continue to grow in the future.
Gift looks to secure legacy, provide for next generation of researchers

BY KRISTA HABERMEHL

When Lee was 65, with a 28-year ground-breaking imaging research program in his rear view, Ting-Yim Lee is looking to the future – and planning his succession.

In an historic partnership announced at St. Joseph’s Health Care London Wednesday, the gift was jointly bolstered by Western and St. Joseph’s Hospital Foundation to create a $3-million endowment to support the chair. The establishment of the Dr. Frank Lawton Prato Research Chair in Cardiovascular Imaging Research at Lawson Health Research Institute was also announced, with support from local donors, further bolstering the City of London’s reputation as a worldwide imaging research powerhouse.

The combined value of both chairs is $6.5 million.

“These generous donations, and the new chairs they create, will strengthen our partnerships with St. Joseph’s and Lawson and help ensure that London remains at the forefront of medical imaging research and teaching,” said Western President Amit Chakma.

Through his research program, Lee pioneered the development of a software compatible with existing CT scanners that employs a method of injecting dye to tell doctors in assessing blood flow in the event of stroke. The software was first licensed by GE HealthCare in 1999, and again in 2015, and is now part of 75 per cent of the company’s new scanners in more than 3,000 hospital imaging departments worldwide. The software provides a faster, more efficient way for doctors to analyze and measure blood flow and determine the best treatment course – saving time at a juncture where every minute could change the outcome for the patient.

“Lee’s contribution to imaging research has been tremendous. Not only has his work had an impact on CT imaging globally, but it has changed the course of treatment for countless patients,” said Schulich Dean Dr. Michael Strong. “The cerebral blood flow measurements that Ting pioneered are now mainstream in the management of stroke patients. The establishment of this chair will allow us to continue this innovative work for the benefit of cardiac patients.”

With an estimated 1.3 million Canadians living with heart disease, there is a significant opportunity for cardiac imaging research to change the outcome for patients who have suffered cardiac events.

According to Lee, the current management of a sudden onset of chest pain is to inject dye into the patient’s blood vessels – so they “light up” – and take a CT picture to see which vessel is blocked. Once the blockage is found, patients undergo revascularization, a surgical procedure that restores blood circulation either by unblocking blood vessels or by implanting replacements.

In 30 per cent of cases where a person has a blockage and undergoes revascularization, Lee said, the surgery doesn’t actually benefit the patient.

“It has been found that a vessel may be blocked, but the surrounding tissue may be surviving because there are collateral vessels that will supply the surrounding tissue. The patient may still be fine even if there’s a blockage.”

In addition to being expensive for little to no benefit, there are also associated risks to the patient by undergoing a surgery like revascularization.

“If we could develop this, we would be almost the first site in the world to prove it is really possible – and we would bring significant improvement for people who suffer from coronary artery disease,” Lee continued. “If we are the first ones, we will be able to do a lot of ground-breaking clinical trials to prove the method works.”

For Lee, it’s all about guaranteeing his research program will continue to make an impact long after he chooses to step back.

“I am very, very happy that this has come about because it’s the last piece of the puzzle to put the whole puzzle together,” he said. “Yes, after I retire, someone else will pick it up and carry on with it, but, if they start from nothing, the progress will be smaller than if they already have something built up to work with.”

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A new chair, a $6.5-million endowment and an innovative imaging research program in his rear view, Ting-Yim Lee is looking to the future – and planning his succession. The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry professor, whose work focuses on finding more efficient ways to use computed tomography (CT) imaging to measure blood flow in tissue in the event of stroke, cancer and cardiac events, is planning for his future retirement by ensuring the next phase and third banner of his research – cardiac CT imaging – is executed to the future.

To do so, Lee and his wife, Maggie, have helped establish the Ting-Yim Lee Chair in Cardiovascular Computed Tomography Imaging Research at Western, Lawson Health Research Institute and St. Joseph’s Health Care London. The chair will develop innovative CT functional and molecular imaging techniques to advance early diagnosis and clinical care of patients suffering from cardiac events, such as heart attack.

“Over the past 28 years, the institutions have created a powerhouse. We are onto something that is worthwhile and we have the team and motto to succeed,” Lee said. “We are onto something that is worthwhile and we have the team and motto to succeed.”

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At the age of 65, with a 28-year ground-breaking, revascularizing imaging research program in his rear view, Ting-Yim Lee is looking to the future – and planning his succession.

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“The methodology we developed in scanning the patient, as well as the software we develop afterwards to analyze the data, is easily translatable, not only to academic centres but to regional hospitals as well,” Lee said. “You don’t need specially trained personnel to use it.

The implications of the research are far-reaching and carry significant dragal and societal impacts.

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Hamlet Q1 is known as the "bad quarto" because it is an early printed version of Shakespeare's play, published in 1603. Unlike other versions, it is so short, and it has a lot of strange readings in many of the speeches, including some of the famous soliloquies.

It is usually referred to as the "bad quarto" because it is unclear and has lots of internal contradictions. Some scholars believe it was written during Shakespeare's lifetime. The text is known for its lack of continuity and its inconsistencies. It is known for its short version of a Tudor interlude

For the performance of "Hamlet Q1," the director, Devereux, has chosen to add a 15-minute intermission, which is ideal for a staging. The performance will be, in some ways, an echo of the second quarto and folio versions of the play. While the second quarto and folio versions of the play were not much different from the first quarto, "Hamlet Q1" is known as "the bad quarto" because it is an early printed version of Shakespeare's play, published in 1603. Unlike other versions, it is so short, and it has a lot of strange readings in many of the speeches, including some of the famous soliloquies.

People learn it in school and will be drawn to it because of the character names, the themes, and the story. It is familiar. They like all versions – I like all versions. I've seen a number of productions I thought were great. It's a nice way to bring together students from all the faculties. They don't often get to change majors in the arts, and they can all come together for a performance. And it is beautiful. The play is so short and because of the timing of the performance, it is ideal for a short version of a Tudor interlude.

We're getting a lot of really great students who tend to do most of their work in Science and biology courses. So we're really excited to bring together students from all the faculties. They often don't get to change majors in the arts, and they can all come together for a performance. And it is beautiful. Because the play is so short and because of the timing of the performance, it is ideal for a short version of a Tudor interlude.

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In their own words

The Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, a past Professor of Poetry at Oxford University, a manufacturing industry titan and two world-renowned economists received honorary degrees and offered advice to 2,525 new graduates as Western hosted its 308th Convocation last week.

"I say this not to scare you. I’m an optimist and believe there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The light is education; the light is you. Your education not only gives you a shield against the dystopian post-factual world, but it provides you with a sword with which to combat it. Education is power. You have that power."

David Laidler

"If you sometimes feel you know a little better about this and that than those who taught you, you’re probably right. In the future, as you recall your teachers’ advice with respect, I think it will be wise to come to your own conclusions and then follow them."

Sabine Nölke, BA’78, MA’80, LLB’85

"All of you, regardless of your field of study, learned something important at Western – how to think, how to tackle a problem – skills to which you will turn to again and again in your life. You are entering the labour market at a time of great difficulty but with what you’ve learned at Western, I’m sure you’re up to the task."

Michael Parkin

"If you’re reaching for the top of the mountain, as you climb up, as you get close to the top, look for another one – a hill that’s a little higher because once you get to the top of the mountain, and you have no higher hill to climb, there’s only one way to go and that’s downhill. Once you start going downhill, it goes faster and faster."

Frank Hassenfratz

"Language is like a collection of tools, but some of the most important words in our language are not like tools – they are like nails. They are all the words which challenge you to imagine a picture of them."

Christopher Ricks
Rebel Angel: Remembering Ross Woodman

BY CHRIS LOWRY

Ross Woodman lived when this was an underground movement, and he was also one of the most influential Canadian authors of the 20th century. An internationally recognized critic in English Romantic letters and a passionately original interpreter of Jung and Freud. Woodman, who died in March 2014 at the age of 91, taught English Romantic letters and a passionately original interpreter of Jung and Freud.

Woodman was a magical teacher who influenced thousands of students. He was a mentor to me but also a friend and mentor. I was fortunate to have called her a colleague.

Many of his former students say Woodman inspired them to become writers, artists, and educators. English and Writing Studies professor Judi Felker, who worked closely with Woodman on his last book, says he was a mentor to her. She remembers him sitting in the front of the room during the beginning of his first class. When Woodman spoke up, the room became so quiet, you could hear a pin drop.

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Stroke at the time said: ‘Barney, why don’t you evaluate it?’ The rest, as they say, is medical history.

NASCET showed the invasive surgical procedure significantly reduced the risk of stroke in patients who had a carotid artery more than 70 per cent blocked – otherwise, the operation yielded only a moderate reduction in the risk of stroke in patients with moderate blockages (30 to 69 per cent) and did not at all benefit patients who had an artery less than 50 per cent blocked.

“That got us a reputation for knowing something about stroke,” he said.

Before the NASCET study, Barnett was leading another extensive trial, with quite a different outcome. In North America, and some other medical centres in the world, clinics were established to perform extracranial-intracranial (EC-IC) bypass surgery, in patients with total occlusion of one of the major supplies to the brain, the internal carotid artery. Through an opening of the skull bone, arteries on the outside of the skull were connected with those on the surface of the brain.

The EC-IC bypass study showed these operations did not benefit patients and in the mid-1980s, these operations were almost totally stopped. Today, we know before any conclusions can be made on the severity of an occluded carotid artery, an evaluation of alternative (collateral) blood flow supply to the brain is essential.

Even earlier, in 1970, Barnett was leading the Canadian Aspirin Trial which established, for the first time, that any antiplatelet drug could prevent diseases (in this case stroke) due to arterial thrombosis. A worldwide figure in neurology, Barnett really wanted to be a naturalist. The medical schools he chose for his multi-centre international clinical trials also happened to be close to bird sanctuaries. A child of the manse, he skipped Sunday school to frequent sewage lagoons with his binoculars. He was a leader in conservation with much of the preservation of primary forest in the King Township, Ont., due to his years of persuasion. He was able to get the Prime Minister of Canada into his living room and wring $250 million out of him for the nature conservancy of areas needed by threatened plant and animal species.

Barnett was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1984, and then promoted to Companion in 2003. He was inducted into the Canadian medical Hall of Fame in 1995, awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Western in 2001 and an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Oxford in 2012. Barnett was the first non-European to receive the prestigious Karolinska Stroke Award for Excellence in Stroke Research in 2008. The Karolinska Institute also awards the Nobel Prize annually.

Barnett is survived by his brother, Doug; sister, Mary Ranger; and children, Ann and David Love, Will and Frances (Brickenden) Barnett; Jane and Jim Drake and Ian and Judy (Snowden) Barnett, as well as by his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Kathleen (Gourlay); parents, Canon Thomas and Sadie (Macaulay) Barnett; and his siblings, Tom, Doreen, Victor and Ruth Stewart.

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“He instilled in all of us a sense that nothing less than excellence was acceptable.”

- Michael J. Strong, Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

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