In Memoriam: Graeme Hanson, MD

December 5, 2014 - 10:48am

Graeme Hanson, MD

On Thursday, December 4, our friend and colleague Graeme Hanson, MD, died in San Francisco in the company of friends and family. Graeme was 79 years old at the time of his passing from complications related to pulmonary disease.

A native of Maine, Graeme completed his undergraduate education at Yale University with a major in German Literature after spending one year as a student at the University of Heidelberg. He received his MD from Harvard University and then, after a rotating internship at Lenox Hill Hospital, completed his general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry training at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center. Graeme was a faculty member at Harvard for 10 years before moving to the UCSF where he served with distinction for 24 years, rising to the rank of Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, the position he held at the time of his death.

Graeme was a nationally known and widely respected colleague. He was active in the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry where he played crucial roles
developing policy with respect to child mental health in schools and in systems of care. At UCSF, he held numerous positions, including psychiatric consultant for the nascent Infant-Parent Program at San Francisco General Hospital, Director of the Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Inpatient Services, Director of Clinical Services in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Langley Porter and Medical Director at the Edgewood Center for Children and Families. But Graeme may be best known for his many years of dedicated service as an educator, especially in the role of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Training Director at UCSF. In this latter role, he shaped the lives and careers of generations of child and adolescent psychiatrists. His passion for teaching and his support for his trainees continued until a few days before his death, including sending instructions about coverage for his supervision and course from his hospital bed.

Graeme is well-remembered as a wonderful friend, colleague, mentor, and member of our community. He was a masterful clinician who was dedicated to the highest standards of care for his patients, young and old. Graeme was indomitable despite his soft voice and kind nature, and while he was both knowledgeable and wise, he shared himself and what he knew with remarkable grace and humility. Graeme loved his students and they loved him. There is little doubt that he would be pleased by the reflections of one of his current students on hearing of his passing: “Graeme was such a gem of a person with wisdom, compassion, thoughtfulness, curiosity and a sense of playfulness and joy. I felt known and seen by him.”

A time of gathering and reception will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 from 1-2 p.m. at Lindquist Funeral Home in Yarmouth, ME with a memorial service beginning at 2:00 PM at the funeral home. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in Yarmouth in the spring. Please visit www.lindquistfuneralhome.com to view a video collage of Graeme’s life and to share condolences, memories and tributes with his family.

For Graeme’s Bay Area friends and colleagues, a memorial gathering will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 from 2-5 p.m. at the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio of San Francisco.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Graeme to the Edgewood Center for Children and Families, 1801 Vicente Street, San Francisco, CA 94116.

- **San Francisco Chronicle**: Graeme Hanson, MD, 1935-2014
- **The Forecaster**: Graeme Hanson, 79: Distinguished psychiatrist loved family, music, Clam Festival

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