

RICHARD GORDON FOULKES 1923 – 2007



Richard G Foulkes, 1923–2007, with his daughter Laurel Axam, on a fishing trip in 1987. Photograph Anne Anderson

It is with a very deep sense of loss that we report the passing of Dr Richard G Foulkes, associate editor of *Fluoride*, who died on September 3, 2007. His first research contribution to our journal was a very revealing report in 1994 co-authored with his late collaborator and partner, Anne C Anderson (1931–2000), concerning the impact of water fluoridation on salmon species in British Columbia, Canada, and the US Pacific Northwest.¹ His many reviews and summaries,^{2–10} reports of ISFR conferences,^{11–12} editorials and tributes,^{13–18} and letters^{19–24} have graced the pages of *Fluoride*. His most recent editorial, an incisive exposition of the “precautionary principle” and “evidence-based dentistry,” appeared earlier this year.¹⁸

Born on January 15, 1923, in Watford, England, Richard moved to Canada with his parents Gordon and Dorothy and his younger brother Raymond when he was six years old. The family then settled in New Westminster, BC, where he grew up. During and after World War II, he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force. In 1950 he earned his BA degree and in 1954 his MD degree from the University of British Columbia as a member of the first UBC medical school class. Afterward he served as a medical officer in the RCAF and then as a physician in general family practice in remote Fort Nelson areas of British Columbia and Saskatoon,

Saskatchewan. After post-graduate study at the University of Manitoba in hospital organization and management, he became a medical administrator at the Woodlands School and the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, where he advanced to the post of medical director and later of executive director.

In 1972 he was commissioned by The British Columbia Ministry of Health to review the province's health care system and make recommendations for improvement in its services and financing. His detailed reports with over 260 recommendations were published in 1973–4. During this period he was also an assistant professor in the UBC Department of Health Care and Epidemiology. In 1977 he returned to family medical practice in Tofino, BC, and later did relief work in Abbotsford, BC.

In 1990, from a great deal of further study after becoming acquainted with Anne Anderson, he realized that his previous views favoring water fluoridation were no longer tenable. As a result, he teamed up with Anne and spent much of his time speaking and writing on fluoride and fluoridation. He and Anne were also active in the ISFR, participating in its conferences in Kyoto, Japan (1992); Beijing, China (1994); Budapest, Hungary (1996); and Bellingham, Washington (1998). In the year 2000 he became an associate editor of *Fluoride* and continued into the last year of his life refereeing manuscripts and writing editorials and reviews for the journal.

Dr Foulkes was predeceased by his wife Karen, his collaborator and partner Anne, and his brother Raymond. He is survived by his three children, Marc, Erica, and Laurel, and two grandchildren, Erin and Matthew.

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