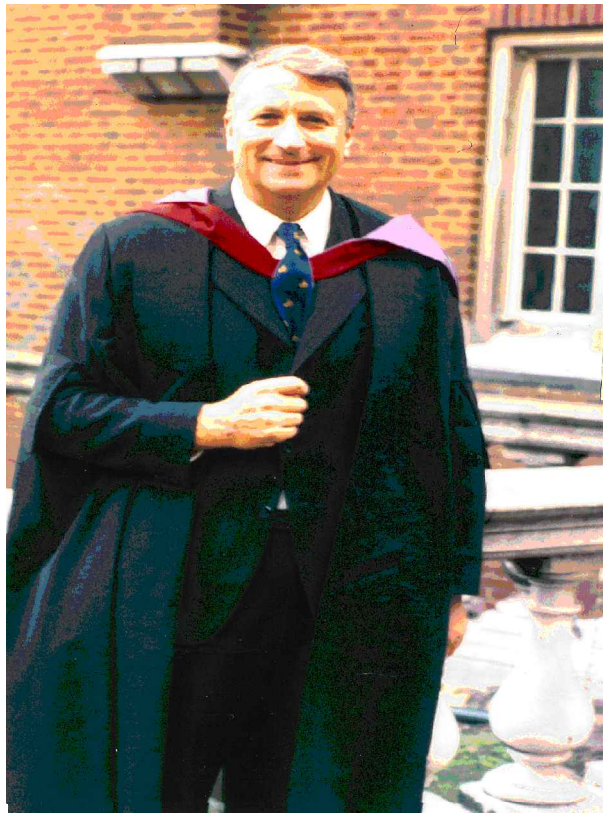


Obituary



PETER DAVID PHELPS (1939–2002)

PETER DAVID PHELPS, M.D., F.R.C.R., F.R.C.S.

Dr Peter Phelps died on the 7th February 2002. Peter was born on 22nd May 1939. He was educated at Merchant Taylors School and trained in Medicine at Charing Cross Hospital qualifying in 1962. After house appointments and a term in the Anatomy Department, he went to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford to train in Otolaryngology. In the late stage of his training, when senior registrar he became profoundly deaf. It was decided that he could not continue in his chosen specialty, and would need to change to one with less direct patient contact: and so Peter retrained in Diagnostic Radiology. He was naturally drawn to the ENT application of diagnostic X-rays and was particularly interested in their use in Otolaryngology. In the mid-1970s he began weekly visits to the X-ray department at RNTNE Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, which were continued when he was appointed Consultant Radiologist to the Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry. After 1988 he divided his time equally between the two departments, becoming consultant in charge at Gray's Inn Road.

Peter's approach to ENT imaging was always informed by his clinical experience as otolaryngologist and in spite of his deafness, this gave him an important advantage over his radiologist colleagues, both in the X-ray department and at meetings. He was widely popular internationally and his unique-

ness was particularly appreciated by his European colleagues. He was a founder member of the European Society of Head and Neck Radiology, served as secretary and hosted a very successful meeting at Coventry in 1996. In recognition of his services he was accorded Honorary Life Membership in September 2001. His output of papers was prodigious and he published three textbooks, one of which (*Diagnostic Imaging of the Ear*) won the George Davy Howells Memorial prize for 1991. In later years he worked closely with Great Ormond Street concentrating on congenital ear disease, and became an international authority; in fact he was simply the best oto-radiologist of his day.

Peter overcame his disabilities with great good humour and fortitude and never allowed them to prevent a full life both professionally and at home. He lived in a picturesque Warwickshire village, where he kept and serviced several vintage cars. His other great enthusiasm was for the canals, and he spent many holidays narrow boating with his family. Our sympathy and condolences go to his wife Susan, to his daughter Rosalind, and son Nigel. For all of us his loss is irreplaceable: when unique people die, we are reminded, there are sometimes no replacements in life's store.

GLYN LLOYD