

Professor B.G.N. Smith

Past president: 1988-1989



Bernard Smith died on 2 November 2016 following a brave fight with pancreatic cancer. Bernard qualified at University College Hospital Dental School in 1963 and worked in general dental practice as an associate and later principal and owner. Encouraged by Professor Pickard he went to America to study prosthodontics for two years as a postgraduate at the University of Michigan, subsequently returning to full time academic appointments in London in 1968. He held academic appointments at The London, The Royal Dental Hospital, and Guy's, UMDS. Until retirement in 2003 he was very active clinically, providing a wide range of restorative treatments and supervising postgraduate students. In 1991 he became Professor of Conservative Dentistry, Head of Department at Guy's Hospital (UMDS) and concurrently fought and won his battle with lymphoma.

He established the MSc in Conservative Dentistry at The Royal in 1976. He examined undergraduates and postgraduates at universities worldwide and all the UK Royal Colleges. He was at various times President of the British Society of Restorative Dentistry, the International College of Prosthodontists, Honorary Consultant in Restorative Dentistry to the British Army, board member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of the RCS England, Chair of the UK Specialist Advisory Committee in Restorative Dentistry, and Member of the Board of Directors of Dental Protection Ltd. He championed the NHS Consultants in Restorative Dentistry. Bernard's research concerned tooth wear, publishing numerous papers and authoring several textbooks.

Bernard was a man of great integrity; if he considered something was wrong wild horses would not make him budge. He was a big man in ethic as well as in stature and he would not be pushed around. He was an inspirational teacher with a great interest in curricula. Bernard was a wise council and many have been influenced by his advice. As a head of department, he was present, available, caring and very hard working. He would sometimes advise a change in career direction and many have benefited from his suggestions.

Marrying Susan (1962), an RDH trained dentist, was his own best decision. Their homes in London and Anglesey were shaped by his passion for building. Their hospitality was legendary, both being outstanding cooks. He was immensely proud of his children, Matthew and Louise, and son-in-law Neil. He adored his grandchildren, Zoe and Ruby. His family and many friends will miss him terribly, but will be thankful for all this remarkable man gave us.

[Reproduced with Kind Permission of the British Dental Journal](#)

