

## Anthony Carl (Tony) Kaeser FRCP, FRCPsych

Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, Basildon sector,  
Thameside Community Healthcare NHS Trust



Tony Kaeser, who recently died aged 84, was one of the pioneer consultant psychiatrists who from the 1960s onwards developed departments of psychological medicine in district general hospitals at the time when long-stay mental asylums were being phased out. In the years following his appointment in 1969 as a general adult psychiatrist to Runwell Hospital, he was involved in innumerable planning meetings with the then North East Thames Regional Health Authority to advance the new purpose-built department of psychological medicine at Basildon District General Hospital. This was eventually opened in 1977. It was Tony's attention to detail which improved the ward day areas for the patients – initially they were going to look out on to industrial sites, but with some reconfiguring of the layout the views were transformed to field and countryside vistas.

In the 1980's Tony was appointed convenor for training approval visits for the East Anglian Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He provided liaison psychiatry services at Basildon District General Hospital and was the consultant psychiatrist for the Regional Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit at St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay for 11 years. He was Chairman of the Basildon General Hospital District Consultant Staff Committee. For the last 7 years of his career he chose to work full time in psychogeriatrics. Despite his heavy clinical load, his professional services were extended willingly to staff and their families from all areas of the National Health Service (NHS) in South Essex.

He was a Foundation member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The College recognised his abilities by inviting him in 1984 to act as convenor leading the first team to visit the large Hong Kong training scheme. Shortly before retiring, Tony became a General Medical Council Examiner for doctors with health problems and for a number of years in retirement was one of two Lord Chancellor's Visitors for England. He was also an Area Visitor for the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund until he reached their retirement age.

Tony was born in London in 1932. He qualified at St. Mary's Hospital in 1957 and after house jobs in general medicine he obtained the MRCP and entered the Maudsley

training scheme. After obtaining the DPM he was appointed senior registrar at the Maudsley and Institute of Psychiatry. From there he was appointed consultant psychiatrist to Runwell Hospital.

A gentle, kindly, impressively ethical doctor, he was considered in his thinking and conversation but precise, soundly analytical and unfailingly wise. His manners to everyone he encountered were impeccable and right to the end he retained his genuine interest in people. When he became ill himself, he wanted to know about the lives of his carers.

His personal life was varied and fulfilling. He inherited his father's stamp collection. He loved a wide range of music and enjoyed playing his pianola. He joined in regular contract Bridge sessions with medical colleagues throughout his career and retirement, and these only came to an end 4 years before his death. Tony had a great sense of fun and participated in the staff Christmas show for patients. His performances in playing the femme fatale were such a success that he resigned himself to being typecast. He took delight in the achievements of the members of his family. His wife Wendy was an NHS health visitor and they had 2 children and 6 grandchildren, one of whom is a dancer with the Royal Ballet.

In the latter years of his retirement he experienced gradually declining health. He had been diagnosed with a rare hereditary form of amyloid heart disease and although his cognitive faculties were largely undiminished, progressive cardiac failure slowly developed and he died on 18 May 2016. In line with his commitment to humanistic principles, Tony donated his body tissues for the benefit of others and his brain for research into amyloid disease.

Mike Lowe

doi: 10.1192/pb.bp.116.055079



© 2016 The Author. This is an open-access article published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

## Klaus Minde MD FRCP(C)

Formerly Chairman, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, McGill University, Montreal

Klaus Minde, who recently died at the age of 82, was an academic child and adolescent psychiatrist renowned for his pioneering work in a variety of fields – especially infant psychiatry – and for the development of child mental health services in low-income countries. His early research was in the field of hyperactivity in children. Working with Gaby Weiss and John Werry, he was one of the first to carry out studies of medication in this condition.

In 1961, shortly after he had started his training in child psychiatry, his first child Thomas was born prematurely; he and his wife Nina, a psychologist, were not allowed to touch him – they could only gaze at him through the window of the nursery until they could take him home when he was 4 weeks old. This distressing experience stimulated Klaus' interest in the

development of premature babies and the ways parents could be involved in their care. He carried out a number of observational studies<sup>1</sup> which – allied with the development of ideas on mother–infant bonding promoted by two paediatricians, Marshall Klaus and John Kennell – helped to change practices in the nursing care of premature babies.

From 1971 he spent 2 years on secondment setting up a child psychiatric clinic at Makerere University, Uganda. As well as establishing a service, he carried out a significant amount of research, conducting comparative studies of disorders in Canada and Uganda.<sup>2</sup> Idi Amin, the brutal, idiosyncratic president of the country, was in power at the time. Klaus described how Amin, as chancellor of the university, required every professor to be present when he had decided to address them. While everyone was waiting for him, 3 empty limousines would arrive, followed – 3 minutes later – by Amin on a bicycle that he had mounted just before entering the university.

In 1983 he spent a sabbatical year in London, where he met John Bowlby, whose work on attachment had so impressed him. He was able to persuade Bowlby to visit Canada to talk about his ideas. After his official retirement from his chairmanship in 2000, he and his wife spent a year in Johannesburg, South Africa, where they worked with very disadvantaged children and families in the townships of Alexandra and Soweto. Once again he carried out research, this time on the assessment of attachment.<sup>3</sup> In addition, Nina and he organised a mutual support group of grandmothers looking after their grandchildren (orphaned by the country-wide epidemic of AIDS), which became a model for similar groups in the area.

Klaus always had a strong interest in the plight of disadvantaged children and their need for psychiatric services. From 1994 to 1999 he worked with native Canadian children, acting as a consultant to the Cree Board of Health in Mistissini, Quebec; from 2009 to 2015 he was a consultant to Dans La Rue, an organisation caring for street children in Montreal.

Klaus was born in Leipzig in 1933 in the same year as Hitler came to power in Germany. His father was technical director of Germany's public radio and strongly opposed the Nazi movement. As one of the few senior people who had refused to join the Nazi party, his father was promoted after the war but was later sacked when a communist state was imposed in Eastern Germany in 1949. Klaus attended a humanist school and also rebelled against the ruling party. He wanted to study medicine but given his family background and

outspoken political views, he had no chance of entering an East German medical school. Leaving his family behind – it was many years before his mother could join him – he travelled to West Germany and obtained a place to read medicine in Munich. After qualification he won a Fulbright scholarship which enabled him to go to New York and gain experience in paediatrics at Bellevue Hospital and psychology at Columbia University. He then undertook residency training in psychiatry at McGill University in Montreal, remaining in Canada, except for his sabbatical periods, for the rest of his professional life. He was Director of Research at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, from 1973 to 1986 and after a spell at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, he was appointed Chairman of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at McGill University from 1989 to 2000.

With his boundless energy and enthusiasm, Klaus could set audiences alight with his rhetoric, promoting the cause of better care not just for newborn babies but for children with physical and mental disabilities and for the socially disadvantaged. His whole body, especially his gesticulating arms and plentiful hair, seemed to be engaged in getting over his messages to his audiences, who loved it!

After retirement he continued to mentor colleagues and see patients until he suffered a major stroke shortly before his death on 6 July 2016. He is survived by Nina, his three sons and four grandchildren.

**Philip Graham**

- 1 Minde K, Trehub S, Corter C, Boukydis C, Celhoffer L, Marton P. Mother-child relationships in the premature nursery: an observational study. *Pediatrics* 1978; **61**: 373–9.
- 2 Minde K, Cohen NJ. Hyperactive children in Canada and Uganda. A comparative evaluation. *J Am Acad Child Psychiat* 1978; **17**: 476–87.
- 3 Minde K, Minde R, Vogel W. Culturally sensitive assessment of attachment in children aged 18–40 months in a South African township. *Infant Ment Health J* 2006; **27**: 544–58.

doi: 10.1192/pb.bp.116.055350



© 2016 The Author. This is an open-access article published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.