



the college

Results for the election of the Dean 2008

The results of the ballot for the office of Dean were as follows:

Number of ballot papers distributed	11 651
Number of ballot papers returned	2132
Number of invalid ballot papers (blank/spoilt)	3
Number of valid papers to be counted	2129

First stage

Dr Nick Brown	638
Prof. Robert Howard	843
Prof. V. M. Mathew	232
Prof. Gregory O'Brien	416

Second stage

Dr Nick Brown	702
Prof. Robert Howard	908
Prof. V. M. Mathew	–
Prof. Gregory O'Brien	475

Third stage

Dr Nick Brown	898
Prof. Robert Howard	1072
Prof. V. M. Mathew	–
Prof. Gregory O'Brien	–

Prof. Robert Howard was therefore elected Dean to take office from 2 July 2008.

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obituary

James Bernard Walsh

Formerly Consultant Psychiatrist, Craigavon Area Hospital & St Lukes Hospital, Armagh, Northern Ireland

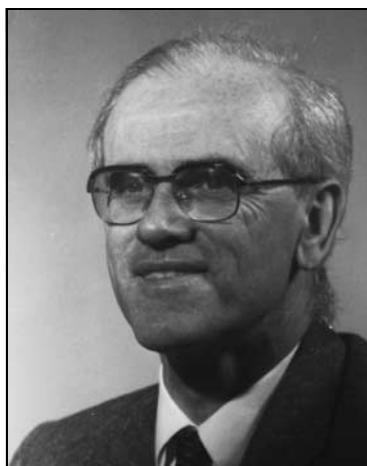
James (Jim) Walsh was born on 25 August 1932 at Belleek on the Fermanagh–Donegal border. He showed early academic promise by winning a scholarship at St Columb's College, Derry, where he had commenced studies in 1945. By 1950 he had begun to study medicine at the Queen's University of Belfast, graduating in 1956, and completing his intern year at the Mater Infirmorum Hospital in Belfast.

Then, after a spell as Senior House Officer (SHO) in Chest Medicine at Musgrave Park Hospital Belfast and some general practitioner locums, he left for a 2-year posting in a rural 72-bed mission hospital in Nigeria in which he had only nursing and paramedical support.

Back in Belfast in 1960, Jim was appointed SHO in Psychiatry at Holywell Hospital Antrim and completed his DPM in 1962.

However, his fascination with Africa unabated, he began that summer a year as a volunteer medical officer with the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in the former Belgian Congo.

Quite soon after his return to Belfast, in 1963, he resumed training in Psychiatry, and within 2 years as Registrar at Purdy's-burn and Clifton Street Day hospitals. He had gained an impressive reputation as a



caring clinician and had also obtained the MRCPI by examination. Then followed his 2-year placement as Senior Tutor/Senior Registrar at Windsor House – the Queen's University of Belfast's Department of Mental Health at Belfast City Hospital. His research interests then, and subsequently, have been wide ranging.

In the autumn of 1967, he was appointed Consultant in General Psychiatry at the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh, where he is still well-remembered for successfully initiating a comprehensive rehabilitation programme comparable with that of Don Early in Bristol some years previously.

Never averse to change, Jim moved in 1972 to a similar appointment at Craigavon Area Hospital, Co. Armagh, based at the first psychiatric unit in a general hospital in Northern Ireland outside Belfast where he was held in the highest esteem by all his colleagues and patients.

He took early retirement in 1988. Soon afterwards, he resumed his passion for travel and took up an appointment at Ponoka Hospital, Alberta, Canada, returning to Armagh a couple of years later. He subsequently held quite a number of locum posts as Consultant Psychiatrist in Northern Ireland, Canada and Jersey – the last being in early 2006.

Jim had a wide variety of interests both outside his professional career and complementary to it. Some years ago he had been a medical officer with the venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem. He was a Knight of the Sovereign Order of Malta and the holder of the Cross *Pro Merito Nilitensi*. He was Chief Medical Officer of the Ambulance Corps of that Order at the time of his death. This was reflected in their representation at his funeral in St Patrick's Cathedral on 20 July 2007, 2 days after he died.

Soon after moving to Co. Armagh, he became active in the Armagh Diocesan Historical Society meetings of which he chaired for many years including one just weeks before his death. Another instance of his versatility was his regular involvement in recent years with the Cathedral choir. This also reflected the religious commitment of one whose idealism was generally unobtrusive and certainly in parallel with his deserved reputation as a caring clinician.

Jim is survived by two step-daughters and his wife Rosaleen who was of inestimable support to him during the 18 months between the diagnosis of cancer and his death. He will be missed by many.

Sean Egan

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