

1 **Remembering Ken Stein**

2 **Don Husereau<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Karl Claxton<sup>3</sup>**

3

4 1 School of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada

5 2 Institute of Health Economics, Edmonton, AB, Canada

6 3 Centre for Health Economics, University of York, York, England, UK.

7

8 "You're mad, bonkers, completely off your head. But I'll tell you a secret. All the best people are." –  
9 Lewis Carroll

10

11 **Author for correspondence:**

12 \*Don Husereau, E-mail:

13 don.husereau@gmail.com

14

15

16 Professor Ken Stein has died.

17

18 As well as being a former member of the HTAi Board of Directors (2007 to 2011) and Editorial  
19 Board (2012-2024t) of this journal, he was, without a doubt, fit for the Mad Hatter’s tea party.  
20 Ken shone like the sun. He brought laughter and joy to all those fortunate enough to know and  
21 work with him. He also brought infectious energy, inquisitiveness and open-minded enthusiasm  
22 to everything he turned his mind to.

23

24 Over his career, Ken made a significant and lasting impact to health technology assessment  
25 (HTA) in the UK and Internationally. This included his early involvement in the National  
26 Institute for Health Research (NIHR) HTA programme in the 1990s until his appointment  
27 Director of the NIHR Systematic Review Programme in 2018, as well as being the founding  
28 director of NICE’s Peninsula Technology Assessment Group (PenTAG) in 2003, serving as a

This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>), which permits non-commercial re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is unaltered and is properly cited. The written permission of Cambridge University Press must be obtained for commercial re-use or in order to create a derivative work.

29 member and Vice Chair of one of NICE’s Appraisal Committees for 15 years, and serving as  
30 Editor-in-Chief for of the monograph series *Health Technology Assessment*.

31

32 In addition to HTA, Ken also led initiatives in evidence synthesis and health services research  
33 including shaping the redesigned Cochrane Collaboration and establishing the NIHR Applied  
34 Research Collaboration for the South West Peninsula (PenARC), serving as Deputy Director and  
35 pioneering patient and public involvement initiatives in this research.

36

37 Ken graduated in medicine from the University of Bristol in 1987, and then worked as a  
38 physician in the UK and abroad before specialising in public health medicine in Southampton. In  
39 1999, he moved to Exeter to work as a consultant in Public Health Medicine in his local health  
40 authority, and then Director of Public Health for the Primary Care Trust. He was rewarded a  
41 position of Chair in Public Health in 2007.

42

43 Ken was diagnosed with metastatic renal cancer in 2019 and went on to take medications that  
44 were considered by the very same HTA committee he belonged to. He was fully aware of his  
45 prognosis and continued to live life to its fullest. In addition to his many accomplishments, Ken  
46 had a passion for music and had become an accomplished singer and guitar player, even playing  
47 professionally. In the final days before his death at his country home in Exeter, Ken had  
48 successfully recorded music for his own memorial—the last of a series of remarkable  
49 accomplishments.

50

51 More importantly, Ken was our good friend. He had a child-like sense of wonder, and always  
52 made us think, and laugh out loud. He was also, by all accounts, a wonderful son, spouse,  
53 sibling, father and grandfather. He has been described by one peer as being “unfailingly kind,  
54 courteous, wise and generous with his patience and knowledge”.

55

56 We couldn’t agree more.

57

58 Conflicts of interest: None