

Hamish Peter Duncan Godfrey, 1958–2002

Hamish Godfrey, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Otago, died on January 15, 2002. He was a member of the Editorial Board of *Brain Impairment* since its inception in 1999.

Hamish was born in Christchurch and educated at Christ's College. He completed his undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Canterbury and came to Otago to enter the clinical psychology training program in 1981. Having qualified as a clinical psychologist he enrolled for a PhD and conducted a controlled trial of a cognitive remediation program with a group of amnesic alcoholics. Although the intervention had only limited success, it sparked his life-long interest in the rehabilitation of persons with brain injuries. It was in this study that he developed his interest in the construction of ecologically valid tests and became aware of the importance of the network of people surrounding the person with the brain injury during the process of recovery. He was appointed to a lectureship in Psychology in 1985 and spent the remainder of his career at Otago University.

Hamish believed passionately in the scientist-practitioner model of training in clinical psychology and research was central to his life at the University. Having completed his doctorate, he went on to investigate the psychological and social consequences of brain injury and to publish over 40 papers describing the outcome of his research program. He was co-author with Louise Smith of a well-received book on family-based rehabilitation interventions for persons with head

injuries. All the research that he was involved in was aimed at improving clinical management of persons with brain impairments, and he brought to his work scientific rigour, a focus on the practical, and an ability to construct creative solutions to research challenges. He gave numerous public talks and workshops, in New Zealand and overseas, disseminating his findings well beyond the bounds of the discipline.

From 1992 until 2000, Hamish was the director of clinical psychology training at Otago. For the first four years of that time he was also the director of the department's clinic. He had a major impact on the structure of the program, developing the clinic into a training facility, which could be used for the intensive training of clinical psychology students. As a result, the intake of students increased and the program effectively doubled in size. As a teacher he was at his best supervising students as they acquired clinical skills in the clinic. He had a great aptitude for working with patients and families who were coping with severe mental and physical handicaps.

Hamish's colleagues and friends will remember him not only for his academic strengths but also his personal qualities. He was an independent thinker with a wonderful sense of humour. His wife Maria and two daughters Kate and Julia survive him.

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Dorothy Gronwall, 1931–2001

Dorothy Gronwall, PhD., OBE, died suddenly in Auckland, New Zealand (NZ), on October 29th, 2001, at the age of 70. She is recognised internationally for her pioneering research on traumatic brain injury (TBI), and the extended effects of concussion, as well as for her 30 years of ongoing research into the epidemiology, causes, effects,

management and rehabilitation of TBI. Within NZ she campaigned tirelessly for the victims of TBI, and established clinical neuropsychology as an advanced specialty in NZ. She continued to work as a clinician until her 70th birthday, and over a 30-year period improved the lives of many hundreds of patients through her assessment,

counselling and rehabilitation. In 1993 in the Queen's Birthday Honours she was awarded the Order of the British Empire for her services to clinical neuropsychology.

Dorothy's life began on a New Zealand farm, and much of her childhood coincided with World War II. Her childhood was full and happy, and as her father was in the Home Guard, she contributed to the running of the farm as well as helping with the housework to an extent unheard of today. This youthful experience with multi-tasking, and using her bright mind to come up with better ways to perform the many practical tasks that confronted her daily, no doubt prepared her well for her later careers as mother, researcher, clinician, and social activist. Upon leaving school Dorothy became a pharmacist's assistant, and it was not until much later, when her three daughters were in school, that she decided to enroll in an undergraduate degree at Auckland University.

Dorothy's interest in psychology and neuroscience was stimulated by Professor Barney Sampson, and Dorothy completed a Master's degree, and a PhD under his supervision. She began her long research and clinical association with Auckland Hospital neurosurgeon, Philip Wrightson, at this time. Her PhD in the early 1970s demonstrated that following a mild concussion, young men initially showed a poor performance on the Paced Auditory Serial Addition Test (PASAT), with gradual recovery within 35 days. On a choice reaction time task her research showed that central processing time was increased but not response production or movement time. This was the first time that organically-based dysfunction had been consistently demonstrated following mild TBI, and the PASAT remains one of the standard tests of recovery from the post-concussional syndrome (PCS). In 1974 she and Sampson published a book, *The Psychological Effects of Concussion* (Auckland University Press/OUP) based on her PhD, and in the same year, she and Wrightson published a paper in *Lancet* titled "Delayed recovery of intellectual function after minor head injury". This paper demonstrated that for some patients, rapid recovery from a simple concussion did not occur; rather recovery was slow and could even result in long-term cognitive impairment. This was supported by observations of increased recovery time after a second concussion, described in "Cumulative effect of concussion" (*Lancet*, 1975), as well as by other studies. Some 20 years later they reported the results of a long study of mild TBI in preschool children which suggested that at this age the effect of the injury was to delay development of some important skills,

particularly of reading (*Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*, 1995; *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*, 1997).

In the mid-1970s, Dorothy began providing assessment and advice on management of TBI patients at Auckland Hospital, and thus was NZ's first clinical neuropsychologist. In 1981, she and Philip Wrightson established the Concussion Clinic at Auckland Hospital, which continued under their guidance until the mid 1990s. The clinic managed patients who experienced cognitive and behavioural difficulties following TBI. Individual rehabilitation was provided along with a weekly patient support and psychoeducation group. In those early years, it was innovative to consider psychoeducation as an important factor for functional recovery. Many publications resulted from this work, focussing on the nature of the impairments after TBI, including two widely-read OUP books titled *Head Injury — The Facts*, (1990), and *Mild Head Injury — A Guide to Management* (1999).

Dorothy supervised the research of numerous Auckland University psychology students, stimulating the careers of many research and clinical neuropsychologists. Entry to her postgraduate course in clinical neuropsychology, established in the mid-1970s, became highly competitive, in spite of its staggering workload! Student end-of-year evaluations consistently judged the course as outstanding, and Dorothy's fearsome teaching style was balanced by dinners in her home, where the entire class enjoyed her wonderful cuisine, as well as her delightful sense of humour. Dorothy's neuropsychology course is still taught today, following the same demanding formula and resulting in a regular stream of students with a passion for clinical neuropsychology.

Gronwall and Wrightson's research on TBI was pivotal in proving that the PCS was a physically-based disorder that could result in years of difficulties for the TBI victims and their families if it was not understood and rehabilitated. It was no easy task to convince health providers of this, and Dorothy's feistiness and bull-headedness were frequently required in the ongoing battle for TBI victims. Dorothy was an unassuming celebrity, and her reputation in the international research arena was never fully recognised in NZ.

Dorothy was a truly remarkable woman who made a deep impact on neuropsychology through her research, teaching, and clinical contributions. She leaves behind three daughters, Karen, Sherrie and Debra, two sons-in-law, and eight grandchildren. Our deepest sympathy goes out to them in their very sad loss.

A trust fund has been set up to establish a “Dorothy Gronwall Memorial Prize” for the top student in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Auckland. This will be presented annually along with a biography of Dorothy and a list of the people and institutions who have donated to the trust in her memory. Donations may be sent to “The Dorothy Gronwall Memorial Prize

Fund”, University of Auckland Charitable Trust, Advancement Office, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, NZ.

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