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Obituary for Mr Richard Yelverton Wilson

Gavin Wilson, Peter Duffy

Richard Wilson, Consultant Urological Surgeon passed away peacefully at St Mary's Hospice, Ulverston on Monday January 11th 2021.

Dick, as he was affectionately known to colleagues and friends, worked extensively around Cumbria and Lancashire throughout his career with the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust (UHMBT). He was appointed in 1977 and managed over 30 years of front-line service, ultimately specialising in urological surgery.

Born in mid-December 1943 to a non-medical family, Dick grew up in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, the son of a gold mining engineer and himself serving as a fitter's mate in the mines, before studying medicine at the University of Western Australia, graduating in 1966. Dick also served as the Doctor for the Australian Special Air Service selection course, completing (to their surprise) their brutal training regime and, as a result being made an Honorary Mess Member of the Australian SAS. Finishing his surgical training in London, Dick met his wife-to-be, Geraldine, at the Withington Hospital, Manchester and shortly settled into life in South Cumbria.

Initially, whilst working as a general surgeon in London, Dick was famous for simultaneously operating on a young couple who had been the victims of a road traffic accident, carrying out a splenectomy on one and a thoracotomy on the other in adjacent theatres. Both survived. In later life Dick switched to urological surgery,

uniting the previously separate Morecambe Bay urology departments. He introduced two-consultant radical cystectomies to Furness General Hospital and the Royal Lancaster Infirmary and was rewarded, shortly before his retirement, with UHMBT being lauded in a regional audit as having the shortest stay, shortest operating time and least blood loss of any of the units in the North-West.

Dick was clearly losing his long battle with cancer over his last 12 months, but managed to visit his beloved Australia in 2019, determined to meet up for one last time with his family and old medical school contemporaries. Cheerful, uncomplaining and outgoing to the end, he passed away peacefully with his family present on the night of the 11th January 2021. Richard is succeeded by his children Fiona, Gavin and Murray, and grandchildren Callum and Luke, Poppy, Scarlett and Noah, Zara and James.

Richard Yelverton Wilson. FRCS. MD. 1943-2021.