



***Our February Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Dr Mark J Hunter, BES President 2019-20, who sadly passed away earlier this month.***

Dr Mark J Hunter, Specialist in Endodontics and part-time member of staff at the University of Manchester Division of Dentistry passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on 7 February 2023. Mark qualified with BDS in Dec. 1979, he gained his MSc in 1995. He worked in general dental practices in Northwich and Altrincham in Cheshire. Working as a part-time clinical tutor; Mark's exceptional qualities, passion and enthusiasm for endodontics were clear to see and he was encouraged to pursue training in the field.

He was registered onto the GDC Specialist list for Endodontics in 2001. Following that Mark became involved in several aspects of life in the University including being one of the founding members of the Alumnus organisation, (SOMANDA), playing a leading role as treasurer for many years. Never giving less than 100%, on the teaching side, many undergraduate students at the University will remember his outstanding qualities of encouragement, patience and ability to find the best in every situation. Mark's generosity in sharing his exceptional knowledge and skills were best exemplified by his involvement on the postgraduate programme, many graduates will have returned to their home countries enriched by words of wisdom from an exceptional individual in all aspects related to the human condition. Closer to home, Mark was a major contributor to the practice based Simply Endo programme. Always keen to explore and widen his horizons, Mark travelled and lectured on the subject internationally and was highly regarded by the wider dental community.

Not confined to the day job, Mark was one of the inaugural and a leading member of the North West Endodontic study circle, which was set up in 2001.

Mark joined the British Endodontic Society (BES) and was on council from 2007 to 2021. He was the President of the BES from 2019-2020 during the early days of his diagnosis, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The society will remember him for his passion for the specialty, encouragement and relentless support of the younger members of our profession, his enthusiasm for the science that underpins endodontic practice, and of course his smile and amateur photography skills at all our events!

Outside the profession, Mark was multi-talented. From a musical family, Mark had always had a passion for music and was an enthusiastic horn player. Before joining undergraduate programme as a student he was a pupil at the internationally renowned Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. He met his wife Diane through their musical connections and all three children, Christian, Jahan and Hannah are also talented musicians.

Mark had wide interests beyond music - he was a talented DIY man and relished the family projects. He was an avid reader, kept bees, was passionate about woodwork, loved cycling and was a marathon runner with a wide experience at club level. His energy was relentless. Ironically, it was in fact his concern over his own performance in a training session that led to the diagnosis of his lymphoma.

After a period of remission after CART-T cell therapy for the lymphoma in 2019, he was determined and proud to have completed the Virtual London Marathon and Manchester marathons in 2021 (a week apart!) raising over £25,000 for the Christie Hospital and Lymphoma UK.

Out-with the achievements above, words cannot describe Mark's deeper levels. He loved and was loved. His energy was at the core of his family whose unremitting kindness, hospitality, and welcome to their wide range of friends was unsurpassed.

A legend in his lifetime Mark said: "It gives you a different insight into what is important in life: relationships and family. I could have retired. I've got so much to give. My desire is to give back." This was the soul and essence of Mark. He was an inspirational philosopher in a world infinitely wider than endodontics.

His passing so young at 66 years is a tragedy; he will be sorely missed. Mark leaves behind a legacy with his dental friends in the North West, nationally and internationally through the specialty of endodontics, and his warm and beautiful family Diane and three grown-up children Christian, Jahan and Hannah.

Rest in Peace Mark.

*Written on behalf of the BES by Dr Sanjeev Bhandari, Professor Alison Qualtrough & Dr John Lilley*



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