



Dr David Pothier

15 December 1973 - 27 July 2018

David Pothier passed away on July 27, 2018 in the early hours of the morning following a struggle with recurrent brain cancer. His passing extinguished a brilliant light, the likes of which few of us will witness in our lifetime. **Philip Clamp** pays tribute.



David with Philip Clamp.

I first met Dave at the Royal United Hospital, Bath. I desperately needed a research project and the solution had just joined the unit. "You should chat to Dave..."

It was career changing advice. I still recall meeting Dave in the doctors' mess. It only took about 20 minutes for him to teach me more about pushing through a project than most others have taught me since. His enthusiastic, pragmatic approach, combined with an eye for unique research opportunities, quickly lead to a number of publications.

I, and numerous others, owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dave, not just for those early projects, but for fuelling an interest in critical thinking and research. I was fortunate enough to spend time with Dave and hugely enjoyed his company. Those that knew him will attest to how engaging he was to chat with; humorous, charming, outspoken and always challenging convention. I was lucky to ride in his wake and relished the occasional opportunity to catch up over the years. Even after his diagnosis, he remained as magnanimous, sanguine, determined and brutally honest,

as ever. He passed the ultimate test of character with flying colours.

Dave left an indelible mark on myself and the whole of the south-west ENT community. He had a larger than life persona, phenomenal intellect and boundless drive to achieve. He will be missed as a colleague, a friend and a truly unique character.

Philip Clamp, Consultant in ENT and Skull Base Surgery, University Hospitals Bristol.

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