



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. **Carolyn Falls** pays tribute.



first became friends with Dave (or DP, as I would call him) when I was a newly-minted audiologist, fresh out of university. Within the hallways of Toronto General Hospital, all of the doctors seemed terrifying to me but no one was more terrifying than Dr Pothier. With his large stature and booming voice brimming with confidence, he was truly larger than life.

My fear wasn't completely off base – Dave did not suffer fools – but he greatly valued curiosity and would generously invest time in anyone with an inquisitive mind and a passion for research. With a fist bump, he soon announced that I was a “top man” (a great compliment in the Dave lexicon), and just like that, I officially had a new friend and mentor.

Dave applied critical thought to everything in his surroundings. I often wondered if there

was anything – no matter how important or trivial – that he hadn't developed a reasoned opinion on. He would never take anything at face value and nothing was held sacred as fact unless proven so, including some of the assumed truths of vestibular audiology practice that I had never thought to question. I spent hours poring over the literature, eager to find answers to his many 'why' questions. In the process, I accidentally became more knowledgeable in my field.

Dave achieved an incredible amount in his far-too-short life. As a researcher, he published prolifically. He was a pioneering surgeon; a devoted husband and father; an accomplished wood-worker; and a professional climber prior to entering the medical profession. The breadth of his knowledge and ability could be exasperating at times. He even had a higher

score than me on Candy Crush!

Dave leaves behind a devastating void for all who knew him, whose lives were greatly enriched by his friendship and mentorship. Dave instilled a passion for research and the pursuit of knowledge in many, a legacy that will surely live on. I will carry the many laughs and spirited debates in my memory and will be forever be grateful for the opportunities he opened up for me, including recommending me to become an editor for this very publication. Farewell, my friend – you will be missed.

Carolyn Falls, Tech Reviews Section Editor, ENT & Audiology News; Clinical Audiologist, Toronto General Hospital, Canada.

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