

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. **David Grant** pays tribute.

I first met David Douglas Pothier at registrar interviews in Bristol. We were appointed together and progressed through training side by side. Dave was not interested in head and neck surgery. I was not interested in otology. We hit it off immediately.

As a trainee, Dave was a force of nature. He appreciated the opportunities afforded to him, and, as such, didn't have much time for the 'lovely guys'. Being nice wasn't sufficient. He enjoyed achievers and, as an educator and mentor, realised people's potential. He had more energy than should be contained in one man, a fierce intellect, and crushing logic. Dave was genius at putting ideas into practice and turning the abstract real. He was a finisher, whether video games, academic projects, or woodworking.

Our carpools from Bristol to Bath are memories of vibrant debate; he the cold cool logic and I the hot-headed Scot. For all that, Dave had a wicked sense of humour. We had so many inside jokes from years of banter that it must have been irritating to be out with us. He was, quite simply, my best friend.

He loved Louise and James. He loved his friends. He loved his work. He was supportive and loyal to a fault. He was a brother to me and always there when I needed him.

Dave was not an emotional or sentimental man. He wouldn't allow sympathy or sentiment to affect him during his illness. His strength and bravery were inspirational. He never complained. We will mourn him, but he wouldn't want us to feel sorry for ourselves. After all, we're big fans of consistency, aren't we Davey?

David Grant, Consultant Surgeon, Head & Neck Oncology & Thyroid Surgery, USA.



David Grant: "Dave and I doing something we no doubt shouldn't have been!"

"After all, we're big fans of consistency, aren't we Davey?"