

Comments from Rachel Roberts, Chief Executive of the Homeopathy Research Institute on the death of Dr Peter Fisher, world expert on Homeopathy and Physician to HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

It was a great honour and privilege to work closely with Peter for many years.

I respected him not only for his sharp intellect and unparalleled knowledge of the field, but for his courage in standing up to the constant attacks he faced, simply for practising and speaking out in favour of Homeopathy.

For decades Peter stood at the front, leading Homeopathy in the UK and advocating for the value of this form of complementary medicine around the world.

A close mutual friend who called to tell me the terrible news remarked that, when she made a list of who needed to be informed beyond Peter's immediate family and friends, the list truly brought home what a huge life Peter had lived. Someone needed to contact:

- Buckingham Palace, so that his patient HRH Queen Elizabeth II could be informed
- The World Health Organisation, for whom he Chaired the working group of Homeopathy and was a member of WHO's Expert Advisory Panel on Traditional and Complementary Medicine
- His list of NHS patients at the Royal London Hospital of Integrated Medicine
- His list of private patients at the hospital
- His fellow medics at the Faculty of Homeopathy, an organisation of which he was proud to be President
- His research colleagues such as myself at the Homeopathy Research Institute, where he was a highly valued member of our Scientific Advisory Committee
- Thieme medical publishers, who produce the academic journal '*Homeopathy*' of which Peter was Editor.

And that was just who she had thought of in the first few moments.

There are not many people who make such a mark on this planet.

There are those who are leading experts in one field or area of expertise, but Peter was unique in bringing together decades of experience as a Rheumatologist, homeopathic clinician, academic and researcher.

Peter was passionate about research; as he once joked with me, he loved his role as Editor of the journal *Homeopathy* because it meant that he got to read **everything** that was new in research. This gave him the rare combination of a broad knowledge of the field, but also the in-depth understanding of each sub-field that you expect from a true academic.

Day in and day out, Peter would put his head above the parapet to defend the right of clinicians to prescribe homeopathy, for those patients who can be helped by it. The task now facing us all, if we truly wish to honour Peter's memory, is to step up and fill his very large shoes as best we can.

But as we continue to engage in the seemingly endless political battles facing Homeopathy, let us also take time to focus on all the positive memories we have of a man whose impact on the lives of others was so great, it is impossible yet to believe he has really gone.

Rachel Roberts
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