In Memoriam: Peter Dunscombe
Celebrating the Life and Accomplishments of
Peter Dunscombe, PhD, FAAPM
A Tireless Champion of Quality of Care and Patient Safety

Peter B. Dunscombe, PhD, FAAPM
A transformational leader of safety and quality
M. Saiful Huq, PhD, FAAPM
President-elect, AAPM

In memoriam of Peter B Dunscombe AAPM Annual Meeting July 16, 2019

Saiful Huq

Peter Dunscombe, PhD

- Born in UK: Aug 6, 1946
- Undergraduate in Physics: U. of London, UK
- PhD in Nuclear Physics: U. of Birmingham, UK
In memoriam of Peter B Dunscombe AAPM Annual Meeting July 16, 2019
Saiful Huq

• Born in UK: 1946
• Undergraduate in Physics: U. of London, UK
• PhD in Nuclear Physics: U. of Birmingham, UK
• 1974-1982: Medical Physicist at Charing Cross Hospital, London

Peter Dunscombe, PhD, FAAPM, 1946 - 2018

• 1982-1986: Senior Medical Physicist at Manitoba Cancer Treatment & Research Foundation, Winnipeg
• 1986-1991: Director at same place
• 1991-2001: Founding Director of Medical Physics at the Northeast Ontario Regional Cancer Center, Sudbury
• 1997-1999: Elected CCPM President
October 24, 1991: Sudbury

Peter Dunscombe, PhD, FAAPM, 1946 - 2018

- 1982-1986: Senior Medical Physicist at Manitoba Cancer Treatment & Research Foundation, Winnipeg
- 1986-1991: Director at same place
- 1991-2001: Founding Director of Medical Physics at the Northeast Ontario Regional Cancer Center, Sudbury
- 2001–2014: Director of Medical Physics at Tom Baker Cancer Center, Calgary

1997-1999: Elected CCPM President

- Chair, Work Group on the Prevention of Errors (WGPE)
  - Incident Learning System RO-ILS
  - Safety Profile Assessment
- Member, TG-100
- Co-author of the text book – “Quality and Safety in Radiotherapy”
TG100 workshop: Hobart, Australia, Nov 2017

IAEA activities

- QUATRO
- IAEA/WHO postal dose audit service
- SAFRON

"indebted to Peter for his passion for quality and safety in radiotherapy" ...

Debbie Gilley, Ola Holmberg, Joanna Iezewska, Ahmed Meghzifene, Debbie van der Merwe, Eduardo Zubizarreta (IAEA)

E-learning – Safety and Quality in Radiotherapy
ESTRO activities

- Active member of ESTRO Health Economics in Radiation Oncology (HERO) group
- Co-editor of the Health Economics Corner of the ESTRO Newsletter
- Taught on the ESTRO School course “Comprehensive quality management in radiotherapy – risk management and patient safety”
- Enhanced Canadian technical standards CPQR

ESTRO President Prof Yolande Lievens said:

“A friend has left us. I have known Peter for about ten years, first as a coauthor in publications, then as one of our core HERO-team members. His firm opinions were an essential sounding board, his determination to make things work helped to shape and drive the project. As a physicist, he stood for quality and safety of radiotherapy, in a context of interdisciplinary collaboration”

E-mail communications with Peter

From: Peter Dunscombe <pdunscombe@ucalgary.ca>
Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 at 6:45 AM
To: Saiful Huq <huq@upmc.edu>
Subject: News

Saiful,

I just got word from my doctor. It’s metastatic cancer with an unknown primary and a prognosis of a few months. I’ll have to withdraw from all my professional activities immediately. I’ll let the group know.
Remembering the good times.
peter
From: Peter Dunscombe <pdunscom@ucalgary.ca>
Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 at 6:50 AM
To: "2018.WG100@aapm.org" <2018.WG100@aapm.org>
Subject: News

All,

I had been feeling a bit under the weather for the last while and have just been told I have metastatic cancer with, at this stage, an unknown primary. I’m sure you will understand that I need to withdraw from all my professional activities immediately.

Thanks for all your efforts on behalf of the WG over the last few years. We made and are still making an impact.

Peter

From: Per Halvorsen <per.h.halvorsen@lahey.org>
Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 at 6:58 AM
To: Peter Dunscombe <pdunscom@ucalgary.ca>, “2018.WG100@aapm.org” <2018.WG100@aapm.org>
Subject: Re: News

Dear Peter,

I'm sorry to hear of this. I have very much enjoyed collaborating with you in the past few years - you're a true professional and gentleman.

With best wishes,
Per

From: Saiful Huq <huqs@upmc.edu>
Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 at 7:48 AM
To: Peter Dunscombe <pdunscom@ucalgary.ca>
Subject: Re: News

Dear Peter:

Thank you for sharing the information with me. You are one of the closest friends that I have. I want to know what I can do for you. I want to be here for you, with you. So, please let me know what I can do. I am not sure what your frame of mind is now. I can't imagine what it is like. You know me Peter. So, please let me know when we can talk.

Thank you Peter.
Saiful
E-mail communications with Peter

From: Bruce Thomadsen <brthomad@wisc.edu>
Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 at 4:51 PM
To: "Jennifer O’Daniel, Ph.D." <jennifer.odaniel@duke.edu>, Per Halvorsen <per.h.halvorsen@lahey.org>, Peter Dunscombe <pdunscom@ucalgary.ca>, "2018.WG100@aapm.org" <2018.WG100@aapm.org>

Subject: Re: News

Peter,
Our wishes are with you.

Bruce

E-mail communications with Peter

From: Peter Dunscombe <pdunscom@ucalgary.ca>
Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 1:01 PM
To: Saiful Huq <huqs@upmc.edu>
Subject: Re: Hi

Saiful,
Energy level still going down. My sister’s contact numbers are:
Tel: 01 494 786 152
Cell: 07913556890
Email: hilarymbrown@yahoo.co.uk

Peter

We salute you Peter!

You will be in our hearts forever!