

RICHARD BLAIN PHILP 1934 – 2017

Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physiology & Pharmacology, and past Chair of the former Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology 1981-1986.

Colleagues, staff and students who worked with Richard (Dick) Philp in both the present and former Departments wish to express their condolences to all of the Philp family on Dick's passing. Dick was a significant contributor to both research and teaching in the Department and was recognized by all as an eclectic intellectual whose passions spanned an astonishingly wide range of interests. Within the Department he managed to combine his expertise in hematology with a love of sailing and scuba diving. His studies on platelet function and on the effects of pressure on drug actions represented significant advances and were published in many papers. While researching in Florida his investigation of environmental influences on marine sponges led him to develop a parallel expertise in environmental toxicology which he pursued particularly in the latter part of his career. His insights led to the publication of several papers and books on the subject and his embrace of social media permitted his expertise and influence to be felt widely.

Dick was a prolific writer and, in addition to his scientific works, he also authored a historical novel, "Loyalist Rifleman" which allowed him to indulge his love of military traditions and history. Those traditions included drumming which sparked his interest in playing the drums, in particular jazz drumming, and ultimately to his long-time and recognized appearances as the talented percussive anchor of several local jazz bands. Moreover, his performance with colleagues and students in a one-time parody rock band, "*The Placebos*" during his chairmanship of the former Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology vividly established his sense of humour and fun.

Dick Philp was an accomplished painter, particularly in water colours, which in typically determined fashion he studied during a stay at the Haliburton School of Art and Design. His works decorate the homes of many of his colleagues, friends and collectors; a series of paintings depicting the four seasons is particularly representative of his unique style. His many varied activities were all reflections of his curiosity and passion for life. He undoubtedly marched to the beat of a different drummer but for him that was easy since he *was* that drummer. He will be missed.