

Tribute to Ruth Holt

Ruth Holt is one of the most loved, admired and respected characters in Paediatric Dentistry in the UK. Her career mirrors the development of the Specialty in the last 30 years.

After a period in the Community Dental Service she enrolled as a postgraduate student at the Eastman Dental Institute in London in the mid 1970s to achieve an MSc in Children's Dentistry. She remained at the Eastman to complete a PhD working with Professor John Murray. This sparked off a career in Academic Dentistry and the next step was to become a lecturer and a permanent member of staff at the Eastman. She soon gained promotion to Senior Lecturer but in the 1990s moved again – this time to Dental Public Health firstly with Martin Downer and then Professor Raman Bedi, current Chief Dental Officer for England.

Ruth is respected as a very good teacher, with a great sense of humour. She was very well liked by everyone, staff and students alike. She will be remembered by colleagues for her meticulous nature at everything she did and is famous for producing columns of figures in neat rows and correcting papers in great detail. Her hobbies are equally meticulous and include gold threadwork embroidery, drawing, painting and pottery. These must surely be ideal qualities for a successful Editor of the *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry*!

Perhaps her most endearing quality is that alongside an enormous appetite for work she is a wonderfully caring and altruistic person. She is married to Paul and they are very involved with church matters both in London and Suffolk, where they have always had a home. Paul has been a great supporter in all Ruth's efforts for Paediatric Dentistry and everyone in the British Society recognises their great contribution and wishes them both a wonderful and long retirement.

Helen Rodd
BSPD Editor

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