Dedication

Tribute and Dedication for Dr Jean Deslauriers (1945-2019)

On September 13, 2019, the thoracic surgical community lost a valued member when Dr Jean Deslauriers died of the very disease that he spent a lifetime studying and practicing.¹ He was a leader in the field of thoracic oncology and lung cancer and had a profound impact on the career and life of many of the authors of this 2-part issue on lung cancer. Indeed, most articles are written by renowned thoracic surgeons and medical oncologists who were friends or trainees of Dr Jean Deslauriers and possess detailed knowledge of the disease and comprehend it.

This tribute is to honor Jean for his dedication to the advancement of thoracic surgical care and specifically on primary lung cancer in the Canadian Province of Quebec as well as North America and beyond.

Dr Jean Deslauriers was born in Berthierville, Quebec, Canada on May 25, 1945. He studied at Assumption College before beginning his medical studies at Laval University in Quebec City, where he graduated in 1969 with the mention of Magna Cum Laude. He would go on to practice general thoracic surgery in Quebec City throughout his career and died on September 13, 2019.

Jean's training in Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery began at the famous Toronto University–Toronto General Hospital from 1969 until 1975. It was here, the starting point of a lifelong, cordial, and mutual relationship with his personal mentors and giants of thoracic surgery: the late Dr Frederick Griffith Pearson, the late Dr Robert Henderson, the late Dr Norman Delarue, and Dr Joel Cooper. The late Dr Bill Nelems, who was Jean's senior resident while at Toronto General Hospital and the late Dr Robert Jason Ginsberg, who was at the Toronto Western Hospital at the time, were also very influential in Jean's training, becoming very good friends as well.

Jean began his academic career at Laval University in 1975. From his training in Toronto, Jean understood the importance of the multidisciplinary approach to patient care as well as being academically productive. With the help from Dr Maurice Beaulieu, his senior partner and "a master surgeon," they established the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Laval Hospital. He was named full Professor in 1992. He was very active in the Department of Surgery at Laval University and was Chief of Thoracic Surgery at Laval

Hospital in Quebec City until 2008 and later retired in 2014. Jean devoted his professional life to the practice of thoracic surgery, to teaching, and to academic meetings and worked with Dr Gilles Beauchamp from 2005 to 2008 as codirector of the Province of Quebec's Inter-University training program in Thoracic Surgery with Laval University and the University of Montreal. In 2010, Jean was the recipient of Laval University's Career Teaching Award, for his mentoring of many of Quebec's young general and thoracic surgeons. He received the Order of Canada in 2011, and in 2015, was named Legend in Thoracic Surgery by the American Association of Thoracic Surgery. Laval University recognized his immense contribution by naming Dr Jean Deslauriers Professor Emeritus in 2016. On the international scene, he has been one of the founders of the General Thoracic Surgical Club in 1987 and a director from 2008 to 2011. He is an honorary member of several International Thoracic Surgery Associations, including the Société de Chirurgie Thoracique et Cardiovasculaire de Langue Française (1991) and the Association Sudamericana de Cirugía Torácica (1998).

One keen interest that Jean had and enjoyed was clinical research. With his commitment to and active participation in clinical research, Laval University in Quebec City became one of the recognized members of the International Lung Cancer Study Group in its foundation days. Jean was involved with many clinical trials and publications. He was very stimulating for his fellows and residents, involving them in clinical research, presentations, and publications.

During his career that spanned over 40 years, Jean contributed to the development of thoracic surgery both in Canada and abroad. He was very productive, coediting 20 specialty textbooks in Thoracic Surgery; he coauthored more than 240 articles and gave over 600 communications. Jean was both articulate and academic and published extensively on the surgical management of lung cancer. He was a gifted, highly respected, and talented thoracic surgeon, and his publications on extended pulmonary resections are a testimony to his surgical achievements. His "Sleeve Pneumonectomy for Bronchogenic Carcinoma" published in 1979 was selected as a Landmark

paper in the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery* in August 2015. He was a popular teacher and traveled extensively, always by invitation, to lecture on different aspects of thoracic surgical care. He was highly acclaimed as being unique and excellent in the delivery of his lecture presentations. In his retirement, he did 4- to 6-week scholarships in countries, such as Turkey, Morocco, Chile, and China, to help with the teaching of thoracic surgery.

Jean's enthusiasm for China began at Laval University, when he trained a young thoracic surgeon from China, Dr Liu Guojin. In 2008 with his wife, Debbie, he took a year sabbatical and went to Changchun, People's Republic of China to teach, educate, and train Chinese surgeons on patient care, surgical skills, and management in lung cancer surgery. "In China he played a key role in the establishment of the Bethune Chest Centre, an integrated diagnosis and treatment facility for respiratory illnesses." It was a remarkable experience, and in the years thereafter, Jean returned to China several times. Being a big fan of the Chinese, Jean also became fascinated by the "world's best-known surgeon" and the only foreigner to ever become a national hero in China, Dr Norman Bethune, a Canadian Thoracic Surgeon (1890-1939). Jean would go on to write on the "Medical Life of Henry Norman Bethune" in the *History of Respiratory Medicine* in Canada in the November/December 2015 issue of the *Canadian Respiratory Journal*.¹

Jean had a wonderful wife, Debbie, who supported him actively throughout his career. They raised their family of 5 boys. Jean and his family lived on a farm on an island in the parish of Saint Laurent, Ile d'Orleans, just outside of Quebec City. On his farm, Jean liked to walk with his dog and run his Ski-Doo, and snowshoe during the winter. He also raised capons, which resulted in a traditional and famous chicken meal on Sunday evenings.

Jean was a proud French Canadian who enjoyed and lectured on the history of thoracic surgery in Quebec and Canada. He was very popular in the Canadian Thoracic Surgical Community and published with the late Dr Frederick Griffith Pearson and late Bill Nelems on the Evolution of Thoracic Surgery in Canada.²

Before this, Jean, along with friends Dr Farid Shamji and Dr Frederick Griffith Pearson, honored the late Dr Robert Jason Ginsberg with a tribute on Lung Cancer for his monumental worldwide contribution on all aspects of management of lung cancer and for his excellence and dedication as an outstanding educator in thoracic surgery. The 2 volumes on lung cancer were published in May and August of 2013 by Elsevier.³ Soon thereafter, when

Dr F.G. Pearson died peacefully on August 10, 2016 at the age of 90 years, it was time for Dr Jean Deslauriers, Dr Farid Shamji, and the late Dr Bill Nelems to honor Dr Pearson with a tribute to his major accomplishments in establishing the first Division of General Thoracic Surgery in Canada and the first training program in Thoracic Surgery in Canada. There are others now, major advances in tracheal surgery, and introducing the first ever surgical staging of lung cancer by mediastinoscopy for mediastinal lymph node biopsy. The *Principles on Fundamentals of Airway Surgery* to honor the late Dr Frederick Griffith Pearson was published in 2 volumes by Elsevier in May and August 2018.⁴ Unfortunately, Bill Nelems died suddenly in March 2017 without seeing the fruits of his labor.

Jean was blessed with a wonderful personality. He always had such a pleasant demeanor and a great sense of humor. Everybody liked Jean; he was kind and loyal to his friends and colleagues. Jean was always amiable and enjoyed wonderful friendships with the surgeons mentioned above and many more in Canada, United States, South America, Europe, and Asia.

Postgraduate surgical education was important to Jean, and he believed that the surgical residents must acquire surgical knowledge on the Scientific Basis of Surgery and not be merely a craftsman. It was from his belief and persuasion that he coerced Farid Shamji to write a clinical paper on the Postpneumonectomy Syndrome after Left Pneumonectomy, which was published in the *Annals of Thoracic Surgery* in 1996.⁵

In 2005, Dr Pearson wrote, "He is recognized as an international leader in the field of thoracic surgery, an original thinker and a thoughtful and critical observer." Jean was a dedicated and no-nonsense surgeon and an intelligent doctor who was blessed with surgical intuition and was always imparting words of wisdom about patient care. His life's work was to primarily improve the quality of life of his patients. Thoracic surgery was Jean's passion, not only as a gifted surgeon but also as an educator, clinical investigator, and surgical mentor. The 4 conditions necessary for the surgeon that Guy De Chauliac described in 1300 to 1370 personified Jean, who displayed all the characteristics in all respects and at all times during his career.

Today, largely due to the initiative of Dr Jean Deslauriers and the initiative of the Lung Cancer Study Group of the past, the standard of care expected in the education and practice of thoracic surgeons is based on guiding principles taught by the late Dr Frederick G. Pearson, the late Robert J. Ginsberg, and the late Dr Jean Deslauriers. It is important to honor these 3 surgeons of the past as true giants, on whose shoulders many

Canadian thoracic surgeons, and those in faraway medical centers, have looked beyond with appreciation of their friendship and clinical and academic performance.

It is worthy to mention quotes of admiration sent to Dr Farid Shamji, after hearing the sad news of Jean Deslauriers' passing on September 13, 2019. Dr Cameron Wright wrote, "*He was a gifted and unique thoracic surgeon who will be missed,*" and Dr Douglas Mathisen wrote, "*We have all lost a good friend.*" These quotes of compassion are very important in honoring our departed friend.

Jean had an international career and was particularly appreciated by the francophone thoracic surgical community around the world. In their memoriam to Jean, La Société Française de Chirurgie Thoracique et Cardio Vasculaire stated that, "it is a giant and a legend that has left us, we will always remember his contagious friendship, always enthusiastic and generous with our surgical community".

In closing, it is important to mention how generous Jean has been to his family, his friends, his patients, and his peers. We will all miss him.

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