Stephen Paul Dinniss


Born in Palmerston North, New Zealand, Steve remained passionately Kiwi throughout his life.

He studied medicine in Otago University, Dunedin and completed house jobs in Wellington and Masterton, where he met his future wife, Kelly.

Steve began psychiatry training in Cheltenham and Gloucester on their return to the UK in 1998. He moved to Plymouth as a Specialist Registrar in Psychiatry in 2003. In between, he enjoyed several travel career breaks in Asia and Africa with Kelly.

As a Consultant he worked with both Home Treatment and latterly Adult Community teams in Plymouth.

He championed high-quality services for psychiatric patients and was a highly respected colleague. He led Undergraduate Psychiatry training in Plymouth for the Peninsular Medical School and was an enthusiastic MRCPsych Course lead.

His passion for training others in psychiatry was undoubted and he even allowed filming of his final operation to provide teaching material for future surgeons. He approached his health problems with a fortitude and resilience admired by all.

Steve enjoyed sports both as a participant and spectator. He regularly met with friends and colleagues to play cricket, rugby and badminton. He was able to attend the London 2012 Olympics with family, with which they were all thrilled.

He will be remembered as a vital, intelligent and passionate psychiatrist, a loyal colleague and above all a friend. He leaves his wife, Kelly and two children, Sam and Emma.

Sara Cunningham, Mike Cooper, Naresh Buttan, and David Bickerton (Consultant Psychiatrists, Plymouth, UK) compiled this obituary.