

Author

Patricia Minnes

Department of Psychology,
Queen's University,
Kingston ON

Correspondence

minnesp@queensu.ca

Keywords

Bruce McCreary,
obituary, intellectual
and developmental
disabilities, dual
diagnosis, university
education

In Memoriam: Dr. Bruce McCreary



Dr. Bruce McCreary whose entire career was devoted to working with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families passed away at Kingston General Hospital on November 15, 2017 at the age of 78. Dr. McCreary was raised on a farm near Smiths Falls, Ontario, and he attributed his career path to a summer job working at Rideau Regional Centre where many years later he became Clinical Director.

Bruce completed his medical and core Psychiatry training at Queen's University followed by graduate work in Child Psychiatry and Mental Retardation at the University of Western Ontario and at the Mental Retardation and Human Genetics Kennedy-Galton Centre in St. Alban's England.

Bruce was committed to his work in the field of developmental disabilities and conducted clinics in Kingston across eastern Ontario for 50 years. At the same time, Bruce was active in work at Queen's University as a professor in the Department of Psychiatry. In 1977, he established the Division of Developmental Disabilities in the Department of Psychiatry. By 1995, the Division had grown to include social work, psychology, rehabilitation, law, genetics, nursing & family medicine. Today, the Queen's Division of Developmental Disabilities is only one of two across Canada.

Over the years, Bruce held a number of positions including:

- 1990-1993 Director of Research: Department of Psychiatry
Queen's University
- 1995-2002 Director: Neuropsychiatric Genetics Clinic
Onwanada
- 1977-2003; 2006-2010
Chair: Division of Developmental Disabilities
Queen's University
- 1985-1993 Founding Chair: Queen's Developmental
Disabilities Consulting Program
- 1974-1977 Administrator: L. S. Penrose Centre/
Ongwanada
- 1968-1974 Director of Treatment and Training: Kingston
Psychiatric Hospital
- 1986-2010 Consulting Psychiatrist: Ongwanada, Rideau
Regional Centre, Providence Continuing Care
Mental Health Services; Kingston General
Hospital; Hotel Dieu Hospital and Peterborough
Regional Health Centre.

Bruce was as devoted to teaching as he was to his clinical work. Indeed, he continued teaching medical students as a Professor Emeritus until only a few months before his death. He gave many presentations at conferences over the years and authored a number of publications including the following:

- McCreary, B. D., & Jones, J. (2013). *Intellectual disabilities and dual diagnosis. An interprofessional clinical guide for healthcare providers*. Kingston, ON: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- McCreary, B. D., & Rischke, A. (2013). Intellectual disability and stigma: An Ontario perspective. *Clinical Bulletin of the Developmental Disabilities Division*, 24(3), Autumn.
- McCreary, B. D., & Rischke, A. (2012). Welcome to our community: Social inclusion for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities: An essay. *Clinical Bulletin of the Developmental Disabilities Division*, 23(1), Spring.
- McCreary, B. D., Jones, J., & McQueen, M. (2012). Managing the challenge of "challenging behaviour" for persons with intellectual disabilities. *Clinical Bulletin of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Division*, 23(2 & 3), Summer Fall.
- McCreary, B. D., & Jones, J. (2009). *Developmental neuropsychiatry: Teaching medical residents about developmental disabilities*. In J. S. Leverette, G. S. Hnatko, & E. Persad (Eds.), *Approaches to postgraduate education in psychiatry in Canada: What educators and residents need to know* (pp. 199-209). Ottawa, ON: Canadian Psychiatric Association.
- McCreary, B. D. (2005). *Developmental disabilities and dual diagnosis. A guide for Canadian psychiatrists*. Kingston, ON: Queen's University Developmental Consulting Program, Queen's University.
- McCreary, B. D. (2001). Developmental neuropsychiatry. In B. D. McCreary, P. Peppin, & B. Stanton (Eds.), *Catalysts for university education in developmental disabilities* (pp. 97-114). Kingston, ON: Developmental Consulting Program, Queen's University.
- Peppin, P., McCreary, B. D., & Stanton, B. (Eds.). (2001). *Catalysts for university education in developmental disabilities*. Kingston, ON: Developmental Consulting Program, Queen's University.

Dr. McCreary also was the recipient of several awards including:

- 2009 NADD-Ontario Chapter Recognition Award for lifetime contributions to the field of developmental disabilities
- 2008 June Caldwell Award recognizing outstanding contribution in support of people with developmental disabilities
- 2003 Canadian Psychiatric Association Roberts Award for his clinical work and leadership in the field of developmental disabilities.
- 1989 Hull-Roeher Award, Ontario Chapter, American Association on Mental Retardation (now Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities) for outstanding contributions to Education, Research and Service in the field of developmental disabilities

To quote just a few of Bruce's colleagues, friends, students and family attending a memorial gathering held at the Ongwanada Community Resource Centre:

"Bruce shared wisdom without arrogance and expertise without vanity; he mentored without intimidation and led fearlessly without dominance."

"At first glance Bruce appeared to be an unassuming and kind man who gave everyone his time and utmost attention; however he also was a visionary and relentless advocate."

"His passion for the field of developmental disability was contagious and his desire to share his knowledge was inspiring. Bruce left a deep impression on most to strive harder, do better and always fight for the less fortunate."

"He will continue to inspire us for many years to come."

Bruce is survived by his children Rick (Lois), Janet (Bernard), Alison (Martin) and Andrew (Paula) and five grand children. Sadly, Bruce's family is also mourning the loss of their mother and Bruce's wife, Carolyn who passed away only a short time after Bruce on February 10, 2018 .