

In memoriam

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In memoriam: Professor Stephen J. Morley (1950–2017)

Johan W. Vlaeyen^{a,b}, Francis J. Keefe^c, Chris J. Main^d, Christopher Eccleston^e, Amanda C. de C. Williams^f



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Stephen Morley, Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Leeds in the UK, on April 28, 2017. He will be hugely missed in the pain community, as a teacher, researcher, collaborator, and wise and generous commentator on many areas of pain. In honour of this, in 2016 he was awarded honorary membership of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP); his citation recognized among other qualities his “exceptional dedication to mentoring health professionals in the psychology of pain.” He was very proud to receive this honour, although unable to attend because of his illness. Despite this he continued to be productive until very recently, so that news of his death came as a shock to many.

Stephen fully understood that the history of science conceals a rich but neglected source of knowledge: “*If you look for new*

ideas, read old masters.” In particular, he was inspired by Murray Sidman’s, *Tactics of scientific research* (1960),³ which addressed experimental data in terms of their scientific importance, reliability, generality, and replicability; Monte Shapiro, who taught him in the mid-1970s in London, and who recognized the limitations of available nomothetic measures, developing instead sophisticated idiographic measurements. Stephen’s work resonates particularly with these wise foundations, galvanizing them into novel research with remarkable relevance to researchers and clinicians in pain research and management.

As an illustration, Stephen was always fascinated by the individual, and how internal changes such as pain and the external environment (eg, how others respond to pain behavior) shape various individual responses in terms of cognition, behaviour, and the sense of “self.” Stephen was one of the few scholars addressing identity, where pain can infiltrate and affect a person’s sense of self in various ways. He found novel possibilities in investigating the discrepancy between actual and desired/feared states of self, which may elicit negative emotions and serve as a motivational drive to behave in ways intended to reduce that discrepancy. This area of research is still in its infancy, but promises to grow steadily and to become a major topic in years to come.

The marriage of psychological theory and the application of experimental methods to single cases was Stephen’s hallmark. As a scientist-practitioner par excellence, Stephen not only wanted to develop understanding but was equally eager to share his ideas with others, clinicians in particular. He wrote several

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^a Research Group Health Psychology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, ^b Maastricht University, Maastricht, the Netherlands, ^c Pain Prevention and Treatment Research Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA, ^d Research Institute for Primary Care Sciences, Keele University, Staffordshire, United Kingdom, ^e Bath Centre for Pain Research, The University of Bath, Bath, United Kingdom, ^f Research Department of Clinical, Educational and Health Psychology, University College London, London, United Kingdom.

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manuals, most unpublished and freely available through his website. He bore his illness with extraordinary fortitude and at the time of his death, he had very nearly finished a book on single-case methodology, written principally for research-oriented clinicians, and had made arrangements for its subsequent publication (Morley,¹ Routledge Medical Health, In press). Knowing Stephen's meticulous thinking and writing, it will undoubtedly be a hugely valuable resource for many years to come.

Stephen was one of the leading ambassadors for the psychology of pain, a pioneer in pain psychology, whose efforts promoted this field on the international level. At meetings, he invariably reached out to psychologists from other countries, reading their work, discussing it with them over coffee, welcoming them, and introducing them to key figures in the field of pain psychology. Through these efforts, he fostered many new collaborative relationships, and drew people into involvement in international organizations dedicated to basic and applied pain research, such as the IASP. Stephen's keen interest in graduate training was something he actively shared with international colleagues. He recognized the importance of developing new and effective programs for training clinical psychologists so that they could better assess and treat individuals suffering from chronic illnesses. Through his enthusiasm and international networking, he encouraged the development of many novel educational programs around the world. Stephen was a frequent contributor to IASP's journal, *PAIN*, and a dedicated reviewer of manuscripts submitted to our journal. Highly regarded for his skills as a scientific reviewer, Stephen framed feedback in a balanced fashion that was critical yet supportive, and the research programs of many authors benefitted enormously from insights he offered in his reviews. These anonymous contributions represent an important part of his scientific and professional legacy, and somehow they seem just the sort of contribution that Stephen would value.

Stephen was also highly valued in the United Kingdom. He qualified as a clinical psychologist in 1975, gained his PhD from the Institute of Psychiatry in London in 1982, and spent most of his career, 32 years, in Leeds, directing the clinical psychology training programme. He was made a Fellow of the British Psychological Society in 1987 and received the 2008 Shapiro Award for eminence in the profession from the Society's Division of Clinical Psychology. He also received honorary membership of the British Pain Society in 2012. Those of us who worked with him over decades knew him to balance imaginative and wide-ranging understanding of psychology with forensic attention to detail and a deep understanding of statistical methods and products. He contributed very substantially to a systematic review of psychological interventions for pain, and was pleased to see citations of this work² exceed the thousand mark.

Stephen was a kind, clever, generous, and warm man whose company and intellectual contributions will be very widely missed. He was deeply contented in his home life, and he leaves his wife of 44 years, Alison, his children, Peter and Clare, his daughter-in-law, Alena, and grandchildren, Gabriel and Polina. His legacy, however, lives on, often unattributed to him, in ideas, research initiatives, understandings and methods, in the professional practice of the huge number of students and colleagues whom he has educated and inspired, and in improvements to the lives of people with chronic pain.

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