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Subject: In Memoriam: Peter Whybrow, MD, DPM, MB, FRCP
Date: August 26, 2025 at 9:30 PM
To: Undisclosed recipients.;

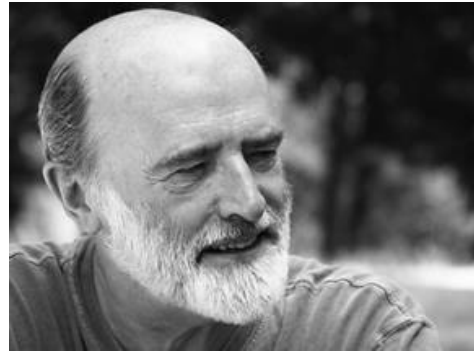
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Message from Drs. Helena Hansen, Patricia Lester, Christopher S. Colwell, Christopher J. Evans, Michael S. Levine, Michael F. Green, Michael Gitlin, and Thomas B. Strouse

**In Memoriam:
Peter Whybrow, MD, DPM, MB, FRCP**

We write with great sadness to share the passing of Peter Whybrow MD, DPM, MB, FRCP, on Monday the 25th of August 2025. As many of you know Peter had been fighting cancer for several years. Peter passed peacefully in his daughter's home in Vermont not far from the beloved family farm in Plainfield, New Hampshire that he purchased while a faculty member at Dartmouth Medical School.



Peter was born in England and truly never lost his Britishness, despite his moving to the USA in 1962, soon after receiving his MD from University of London. Peter was an intellectual through and through, a talented scientist, a caring physician and a savvy, highly respected administrator. His first administrative position was at Dartmouth where he was Chair of Psychiatry and later Executive Dean of the Medical School, positions that were exceptional for a physician scientist in his 30's. He then moved to the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, where he built up the Psychiatry Department and was a highly respected Chair. Peter was recruited to UCLA in 1997, where he became Chair of Psychiatry, Director of the Neuropsychiatric Institute (now the Semel Institute) and Physician in Chief of the Neuropsychiatric Hospital (now the Resnick Hospital). Peter built an infrastructure that made UCLA Psychiatry thrive in research, teaching and psychiatric service, consistently ranking amongst the top few psychiatric departments in the world. Peter recognized that creating a stellar environment for translational research in Mental Health would draw the best physicians and researchers to UCLA. Under his leadership, (as a sailor his term was "steering of the ship"), the grant portfolio for Psychiatry dramatically increased. Beyond that, Peter had a talent for recruiting and developing expertise in a broad range of scientific disciplines that added to the richness of the intellectual environment. Peter's passion and insights surrounding mental health resonated with donors such as Jane and Terry Semel, Stewart and Lynda Resnick, George and Susan Soloman, Stefan and Shirley Hatos, Michael Tennenbaum, Garen and Shari Staglin, and Billy and Audrey Young Wilder, who substantively contributed to the growth and success of UCLA Psychiatry.

In his own research on thyroid hormones and mental illness, Peter was in his language "no slouch" and his google scholar page at the time of his passing shows an H index of 69 and 18,862 citations to his published research (<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=ZGcK9d4AAAAJ&hl=en>). Peter became a recognized authority on the effects of thyroid hormones, behavior, and disorders of mood. Not only was Peter an exceptional translational scientist but he was also an exceptional writer and able to eloquently convey his deep knowledge of mental health and acute perception of the human psyche in a widely read trilogy of books for the public. His books "A Mood Apart" "American Mania" and "The Well-Tuned Brain" are highly regarded and best sellers – a tribute to him that will last forever (<http://www.peterwhybrow.com>).

Though sometimes stereotyped as an upper crust inflexible Englishman, Peter had a very generous and caring disposition. He was respected by his close assistants, and psychiatry faculty and staff, who became extremely loyal to him. He was dedicated to advancing the mission of the institution, supporting the growth of countless faculty, physicians, and students as they pursued their careers. He was empathetic, helping colleagues, acquaintances and their families cope with mental health issues. Peter loved aspects of life, traveling around the world, driving old cars (his classic Morgan and Porsche), caring for classic houses such as his century's old farmhouse, sailing, and passion for all aspects of his career as an academic physician scientist. In the words of his daughter "a life lived fully."

Peter leaves close friends and his two daughters Kate and Helen and their families, with whom he spent his peaceful last days. He will be sorely missed as a father, grandfather, friend, architect of UCLA psychiatry, and strong supporter of mental health treatment and research at UCLA, nationally and internationally.

Sincerely,

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