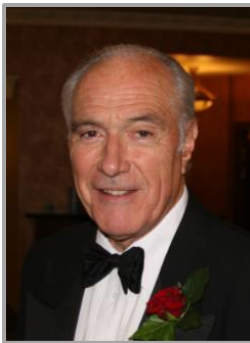


DR CARLOS MICHAEL AZURDIA, GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Dr Carlos Michael Azurdia, retired General Practitioner. Born Liverpool 1938. Qualified Liverpool 1963. Died 26th January 2021.



Dr Carlos Michael Azurdia (1938-2021)



Mrs Gillian Patricia Azurdia (née Crosthwaite) (1942-2021)

Michael was born in Liverpool in 1938 and was second born to his parents Joseph Robert and Ann-Josephine. Michael was the middle son between older brother Bob and younger brother Tony.

Medicine runs in the Azurdia family and Michael carried on the tradition. His paternal grandfather José Roberto Azurdia was a doctor and poet and emigrated to Liverpool in 1910 with his wife and nine children. He was appointed Consul General for Guatemala in Liverpool and continued to practice medicine there - also teaching Spanish at Liverpool University in his spare time; he died in 1943. Michael's father Joseph Robert Azurdia qualified as a doctor at Liverpool University in 1923 and was a GP for 30 years in Liverpool; he too was appointed Honorary Consul General for Guatemala in 1950 until his death in 1960; his mother Ann Josephine Kelly devoted herself to her family as housewife and mother of three rugby playing boys.

Michael grew up with his two brothers and attended La Sagesse Convent, St Edward's College and Stonyhurst College followed by his medical studies at Liverpool University. He played rugby for schools, college and the University first XV and also for Liverpool RUFC (aka Liverpool St Helens RUFC).

Michael qualified in Liverpool in 1963 and trained at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary (LRI) in surgery under Prof CA Wells and medicine under Prof Sir Cyril Clarke. He gained a wide variety of experience as a Senior House Officer, first in A&E then orthopaedic surgery at LRI, then paediatric orthopaedic surgery at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital in Myrtle Street under Professor Roaf, followed by general surgery at Warrington and lastly obstetrics and gynaecology at Mill Road Maternity Hospital with Prof Sir Norman Jeffcoate and Mr Brian Hibbert, before turning his attention to General Practice.

He worked as a full-time GP in Bebington from 1969, becoming a Senior Partner in 1990 until his retirement in 2001; after this he continued to do some locum medical work until 2014. He was the

Divisional Surgeon for St John's Ambulance Brigade from 1972 - 1992 and Medical Officer for British Rail from 1968 - 1997.

His particular medical interests were Hypertension, Orthopaedics and Geriatric Medicine. He was also interested in Sports Medicine and was Medical Officer for Tranmere Rovers from 1986 until 2004 enjoying a number of memorable trips to Wembley.

Michael had many charitable roles including membership of the Executive Committee of Clatterbridge Cancer Research Trust from 1975 - 1986 and was also a Trustee and Member of the fund raising committee of APACHE (Arrowe Park Hospital charity for eyesight) from 1995 - 2012. He was President of the Bebington Branch of Arthritis Care from 1983 - 1990 and a Trustee and Member of Council of the Cancer & Polio Research Fund from 1973 - 2019 until it became incorporated into Northwest Cancer Research. In the last few years he enjoyed charity supermarket bag packing and selling poppies for The Royal British Legion.

Michael held a number of offices with the Birkenhead Medical Society including Honorary Treasurer from 1974 - 1984; Golf Secretary 1980 - 1995 and 2006 - 2021 and President 2004/5 becoming an Honorary Life Member in 2011. He was proud to become an Honorary Life Member of the Liverpool Medical Institution (LMI) in 2013.

Outside of medicine he became a Governor of Birkenhead High School GDST in 2002 and in 2009 remained a member of the Local Governing Body of the Birkenhead High School Girls Academy until 2013.

Michael met Gill on ward 9 which was a male surgical ward at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary. Gill was a student nurse who completed her training in Liverpool qualifying as a SRN in 1964. Michael and Gill married in West Kirby in 1966 and had four children - Richard, Ruth, Debs and Katie and eight grandchildren Edward, Olivia, Erin, Georgia, Camilla, Francesca, Lottie and Bertie. Gill was a wonderful mother and homemaker but also in later life returned to nursing and became treasurer of the Merseyside Medical Benevolent Service for over 40 years – a charity role she was extremely proud of.

Sadly they were both diagnosed with Covid-19 just 10 days after their first Pfizer vaccinations at the end of 2020 and both ended up being admitted to Arrowe Park Hospital; Gill died on 22/01/21 and Michael died 26/01/21. Rest in peace.

Dr Richard Azurdia