

Memorial to Sharon Lee Wood-Dauphinee

By Nancy Mayo

It is with great sadness that I have to let the ISOQOL family know of the passing of Sharon Wood-Dauphinee. After a seven-year battle with dementia and motor apraxia, Sharon passed away peacefully in St. Andrews NB on March 31st, 2025, with Dale, her soulmate and husband of 60+ years at her side daily.

Members of ISOQOL continue to benefit from Sharon's strong presence at ISOQOL. She was a founding member of and served on its first Board of Directors and later served as President from 1998 to 2000. She became a life member in 2018. Sharon was a loved and respected member of ISOQOL and attended meetings over a period of 19 years until travelling became difficult.

Sharon had a strong grounding in both clinical and research arenas. Sharon graduated from McGill University as a Physical Therapist in 1962 and practiced in Canada and the US. She returned to McGill as a Lecturer in Physical Therapy and in 1981 she graduated with a PhD in Epidemiology & Health. She served as the Director of the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy (SPOT) from 1991 to 1999, and again as Interim Director from 2004 to 2005. She was the first Physiotherapist to be appointed to the Dean of Medicine's Faculty Council, McGill's first Associate Dean of Medicine (Rehabilitation) and had served as a Senior Scientist in the Divisions of Clinical Epidemiology and Geriatrics in the Department of Medicine. At the SPOT, she co-established its clinical research tract and its PhD program in Physical and Occupational Therapy, the first in Canada. McGill has honored Sharon by setting up the Sharon Wood Dauphinee Lectureship in High-Quality Care.

Sharon was a pioneer in the field of quality of life and health outcomes research. She was the developer of the Reintegration to Normal Living Index, considered a proxy for quality of life. The RNLI has been used world-wide in the field of rehabilitation and translated into multiple languages and cited over 580 times. She also introduced QOL measurement as a surgical outcome in multiple European countries - the concept has since caught on.

Sharon was my mentor from the early 1970s until she retired from McGill in 2020. I had the privilege of being introduced to ISOQOL by Sharon in 1996 at the 5th annual meeting in Baltimore, MD. Sharon was my ISOQOL partner for the next 14 years. Together we traveled the globe with our ISOQOL colleagues, and I saw first-hand how many people from every corner of the world admired her as a person, a researcher, and a supporter of ISOQOL.

Sharon is survived by her husband Dale, her two sons, Brent and Trevor, and her grandchildren Logan, Samantha, Alexandra as well as many other close family members, friends, colleagues and all those who loved her as a person, a mentor, a teacher, and a leader.