

Dr Henry Brian Megget Murphy (1915-1987)

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, Dr. Murphy graduated from Edinburgh Medical School in 1938. He also later obtained in 1957 a PhD in sociology at the New School for Social Research in New York. During World War II, he was a paratrooper and medical officer with the British Army (Special Operations). After the war, he worked with international organizations concerned with post-war refugee rehabilitation in Europe, Israel, and Australia. Dr. Murphy attributed his interest in culture and psychiatry relations, and the study of culture-bound syndromes to this period of refugee camp work. In the early fifties, he directed the Student Mental Health Service of the University of Malaya in Singapore, where he conducted one of the first transcultural epidemiology studies. In 1959, he joined the McGill's section of transcultural psychiatric studies, established in 1955. Later on, Dr. Murphy was actively involved with the World Health Organization, and, in the seventies, he assumed the chairmanship of the World Psychiatric Association's section on transcultural psychiatry. After his formal retirement in 1982, he worked as a consultant at the Psychosocial Research Unit of the Douglas Hospital. One colleague credited Dr. Murphy as 'extremely influential in shaping and organizing the previously somewhat inchoate field of transcultural psychiatry into the exciting subdiscipline it is today'.

Dr Ramzy Yassa (1940-1992)

Dr. Yassa was born in Cairo, Egypt where he completed his medical degrees (M.B. and B.Ch.). He then moved to Montreal where he completed his residency in psychiatry at the Douglas Hospital, subsequently becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Canada) and a Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Dr. Yassa joined the staff of the Douglas Hospital and the faculty of McGill University, where he became a professor of psychiatry. He published over a hundred scientific articles and book chapters, mainly in the area of psychopharmacology.

A gentleman and a scholar, he was also an outstanding scientist, setting a role model for others, and conducting high-quality clinical research. He was a gifted phenomenological researcher with exquisite powers of observation, an inspirational teacher and mentor with his students, as well as caring and compassionate with his colleagues and patients.