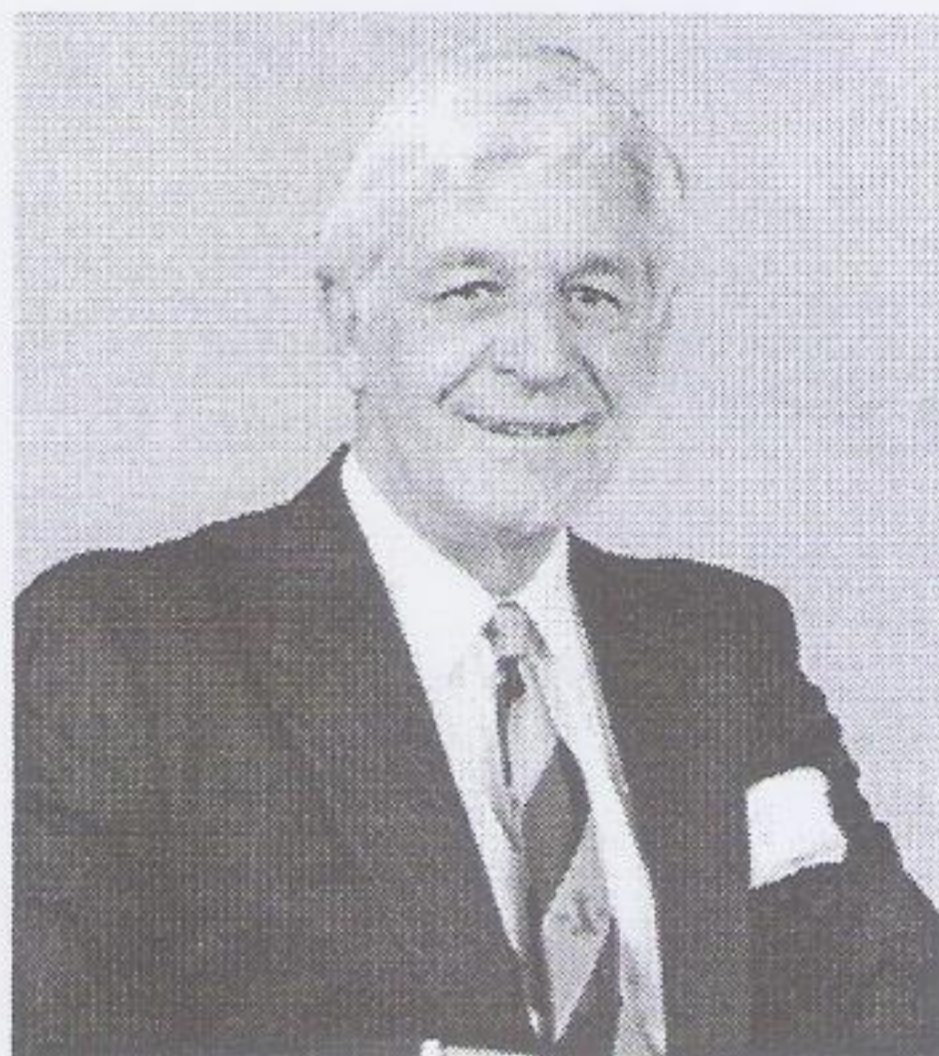


## OBITUARY



**Peter JF Baskett**

(26th July 1934 18th April 2008)

Peter Baskett, the Editor-in-Chief of Resuscitation and prominent member of the Board of the European Resuscitation Council made extensive contribution to medicine in general, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation specifically.

Peter Baskett started lecturing and teaching in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) soon after his appointment as Consultant Anaesthetist to the Royal Infirmary and Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, UK in 1966. He was at the forefront of resuscitation in Europe and elsewhere in the world for 40 years. He was a Founder Member of the Resuscitation Council (UK), which was established formally in 1984, and a Founder Member of the European Resuscitation Council (ERC), which was established 4 years later. Peter was appointed as Chairman of the ERC in 1989 and he remained a very active Officer and Board Member of this organisation right up to his death. As a member of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) from 1995 to 2000, Peter developed the international guidelines on airway management during resuscitation. In 1994 Peter published one of the first studies on the use of the laryngeal mask airway for in-hospital resuscitation. In 2005, in recognition of Peter's contributions to resuscitation the American Heart Association awarded him as a 'Resuscitation Giant'.

He was a Past President of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI), and served as a member of council of the Royal College of Anaesthetists. Peter was also President of the World Association for Emergency and Disaster Medicine, Chairman of the British Association for Immediate Care (BASICS), and President of the International Trauma, Anaesthesia, and Critical Care Society (ITACCS). Peter was made an honorary life member of the AAGBI, BASICS, the Resuscitation Council (UK) and the ERC.

Peter Baskett played a leading role in promoting both citizen CPR within the UK community and advanced life support (ALS) courses within hospitals throughout Europe. Peter personally introduced the ERC ALS course into more than 20 countries in Europe and the Middle East. Until very recently, he continued to teach, on a voluntary basis, on approximately 25 ERC ALS courses each year. Peter had been Editor-in-Chief of the journal Resuscitation and authored over 170 scientific publications and edited five books on resuscitation and emergency medicine. Along with Douglas Chamberlain, Peter introduced advanced training for ambulance personnel in the UK. Peter was responsible for introducing premixed nitrous oxide/oxygen (Entonox) as an analgesic for use by ambulance personnel in the UK.

Peter Baskett accumulated a staggering number of achievements and they impacted significantly on many other disciplines. He is a great loss to the cause of resuscitation.