

TIMES ONLINE

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Section: Lives in brief

Peter Renton, doctor and teacher, was born on February 13, 1944. He died on December 3, 2003, aged 59.

An expert on musculoskeletal radiology, Peter Renton used his research and practice to advance the use of isotope scanning as a means of investigating musculo-skeletal disease. He also worked on dental and spinal radiology; diseases affecting the feet; and the use of imaging to investigate tropical disorders.

For 20 years he gave monthly seminars at the Centre for Rheumatology at University College Hospital, which were highly regarded and well attended by students and colleagues. During a session he would be challenged by all manner of imaging from conventional radiology to MRI and bone scanning, but his scholarship was such that he was rarely at a loss and his insights were delivered with a trademark mix of in-depth knowledge, showmanship and humour.

He taught at University College and the Middlesex hospitals, the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH), the London Foot Hospital and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. He was in charge of the radiology department at the RNOH (1983-86) and served on the library committees at University College London and at the British Institute of Radiology. He was responsible for obtaining a major grant for the North Thames region to store, electronically, the huge film library retained at the Institute of Orthopaedics since 1935, which will soon be widely available.

Renton's major works were on orthopaedic radiology (1990, later translated into French, German and Italian) and imaging in rheumatology (2002). But his scholarship extended beyond his profession. A book entitled *The Lost Synagogues of London* demonstrated that in some cases the same building has been used at different times as a Huguenot church, a synagogue and now a mosque.