William (Bill) R. Yates, MD, and Russell (Russ) Noyes, MD

I am saddened to report the loss of 2 of our most active editorial board members, Drs. William R. Yates and Russell Noyes. Both were friends and colleagues during my years at the University of Iowa. Both men will be greatly missed.

William R. Yates, MD
I first met Bill in 1983; he was a member of my residency class, although was older because he had completed a family medicine residency and had been in practice in a small town in Nebraska. He later decided that psychiatry was his true calling and entered our program. We became fast friends and even owned a houseboat together later in residency and in our early faculty years. He had a boyish appearance despite early hair loss, and always had a twinkle in his eye. Bill later moved to Oklahoma, where he had a distinguished career as Chair of Psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa. He and his wife, Sonja, enjoyed the warmer weather, which was important to Bill because his major pastime was golf. As residents, we published several papers together and kept in touch over the years, mainly through this journal. I greatly admired him for his steady temperament and can-do attitude.

Bill was born November 30, 1951, in Geneva, Nebraska, and attended local schools. He graduated from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry, and entered the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, earning his MD in 1977. He completed residencies in family medicine at the University of Nebraska and later in psychiatry at the University of Iowa, where he also earned a master’s degree in preventive medicine. Bill then joined the faculty at Iowa, where he served in several capacities, including Residency Training Director, before moving to Tulsa to chair the University of Oklahoma’s Department of Psychiatry. In retirement, he served as a volunteer research psychiatrist at the Laureate Institute for Brain Research. He authored more than 100 scientific papers.

Bill passed away on January 19, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Sonja, son Ted, son Timothy, wife Ashley (Meador), and daughter Sarah Hutcherson (and husband Russell). He is also survived by 6 grandchildren.

Russell Noyes, MD
I also met Russ in 1983. He was a long-time faculty member at the University of Iowa and staffed the resident outpatient clinic. By then, he had an international reputation for his clinical and research expertise on anxiety disorders. Yet he was so humble and unassuming, no one would have guessed that he was famous, and he would have denied it. His relaxed manner made him the perfect foil for his anxious and jittery patients. Russ had a slow Midwestern drawl, and, while tempted to complete his sentences for him, I never did. He was loved by his patients. His research career started with a study of near-death experiences. This was followed by a series of publications that attracted intense media attention.

Russ was born in Indianapolis on December 25, 1934, and spent his formative years in Bloomington, Indiana. He obtained a bachelor’s degree from DePauw University and his MD from the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1959. He completed an internship at the Philadelphia General Hospital and psychiatry residency training at the University of Iowa in 1963. He served in the United States Navy and achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander while working as a staff psychiatrist at the US Naval Hospital in Great Lakes, Illinois. In 1965, Russ joined the faculty of the Department of
Psychiatry at the University of Iowa, where he remained until his retirement in 2002. Thereafter, he worked part-time in the University’s psychiatric outpatient clinic supervising residents while continuing to write and publish. His clinical and research interests included depersonalization, hypochondriasis, and anxiety disorders. He was active in the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, serving on the council and holding various positions, including president. Russ led initial efforts to obtain subspecialty recognition for the field of consultation-liaison psychiatry. He received numerous awards throughout his long career.

Russ passed away on June 21, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Martha, daughters Marjorie Noyes and Nancy Heifner (and husband Bruce), son, James Russell Noyes (and partner Dahlya Smolash), and 3 grandchildren.

Donald W. Black, MD
Editor-in-Chief
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REFERENCES