Donald George Bates
1933 - 2000

Don Bates was a physician who saw the inter-relatedness of physical and mental health and the equal importance of a healthy society, free from the threat of a nuclear holocaust. Born in Windsor, Ontario. he earned an M.D. from the University of Western Ontario (1958) and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University (1975).

He married Mary Catherine Young in 1957 and they had two children, Gregory Howard and Jennifer Ann.

He was first an associate professor (1966) and then Professor of History of Medicine, in the Department of Social Studies of Medicine, McGill University from 1975, and was twice its Chairman. He was an internationalist, becoming a Bethune Exchange Professor at the Beijing Medical College in 1978; a visiting lecturer at the Life Planning Centre, Japan, 1982.

A further appointment at McGill was as Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Health,
1971-84. He was also chairman of McGill Study Group on Peace and Disarmament, 1981-8; Consultant, Royal Society of Canada, Environmental Implications for Canada of the Nuclear War Committee.

Dr. Bates was on the board of directors, Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and represented the Association in Stockholm when it was awarded the Nuclear Peace Prize in 1985. He became vice-president, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War in 1987-8. At the sixth annual conference of the IPPNW in Cologne, Germany, he was involved in a memorable detente involving two wings of that organization. Frank Sommers, founding director of the Canadian chapter, had championed the release from jail of two members of the Moscow Trust Group. It was revealed that, because of the IPPNW’s prestige in the Soviet Union, the two were in fact released. Dr. Bates expressed his delight to Dr. Chasov, its co-founder, who smiled and sent a message: “Tell Frank Sommers that this is my present to him!” On such small events can mighty changes take root.

Don Bates took part in many other related associations such as: American Association for the History of Medicine, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, and member of the editorial board for *Medicine and War*.

He wrote and published “Thoughts on Peace and Security” (1985-7) as well as many other articles in professional journals and newspapers, and radio and TV presentations.