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A Tribute to Lynda J. Percival

Lynda Percival, a nurse and a clinical educator, died suddenly on November 12, 1992.

Lynda received her M.Ed. in educational psychology at McGill University in 1988. Since writing a monograph on *Traditional and Modern Methods of Contraception Used by Women in Zimbabwe*, she continued to pursue her research interest with me while working at Vanier College of Nursing.

Lynda devoted the past few years of her life to working in the area of international health and family planning, particularly in Zimbabwe. The first research paper we wrote together appeared in *Canadian Nurse* (Percival & Patel, 1989). This inspired Lynda to return to Zimbabwe and collect detailed data on traditional methods of birth control in rural Zimbabwe. The year 1991 was marked by a presentation on "Traditional Sexual Practices by Women in Zimbabwe" at the *HIV Infection: First International Conference*, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (Percival & Patel, in press).

Lynda and I were working on this paper on sexual beliefs and practices when she died. We met and discussed the final version on the afternoon of November 11. We were excited about our findings and talked about future studies on HIV infection in the developing countries.

Lynda was one of the most gentle and loving people I have known. She was my colleague and a very dear friend. She was a close friend to the members of the Centre for Medical Education. With her vivacious personality and positive attitude towards life, Lynda touched the hearts of many people, both young and old.

Lynda will always be remembered for her sincere warmth and charm, and most of all, for the provocative and innovative ways she went about acquiring knowledge. We will all miss Lynda. I will particularly feel her loss.

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