



In memory of Tomas Allen

(30 July 1961 – 9 September 2022)

Tomas passed away peacefully on Friday 9th September after a short illness suffering with a brain tumour. The news was sad, shocking, and heart-breaking. While we mourn his loss, we can celebrate a life that was well lived.

I have known Tomas for many years. I first met him in 2010, at the 12th EAHIL Conference in Lisbon, where he attended my Continuing Education Course. Due to our interest in systematic reviews and public health research, we became friends.

His work within the Public Health Information Group (PHIG) was inclusive. He was a visionary who was talented, innovative, and creative. As such, he contributed much to EAHIL. Tomas was genuinely concerned with improving the role of the librarian and had interest in access to research especially relating to public health. He generously gave us his knowledge, his expertise, his skills and always with humours. Often, I didn't understand his humour which I put down to him being "a Canadian living in Switzerland".

It is difficult to sum up, over ten years of memories in a few short paragraphs. Albert Einstein said, "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive." I am sure most of you will agree that Tomas was a man who gave. He gave much to his work, and to all of us within the EAHIL community. Tomas was a thoughtful and inspiring colleague and a friend to all. We will miss him but not forget him.

Mala Mann

*On behalf of EAHIL PHIG, of Ana-Belen Escriva and Katri Larmo
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Memories of Tomas Allen – forever inspiring

