

In lasting memory of: Brian James Whipp

1937

Tredegar,
South Wales

1960

qualified as a
teacher at
Loughborough
College

1984

elected a Member
of The Physiological
Society

1994

started as Editor
on the Board of
Experimental
Physiology

2001

retired as Emeritus
Professor in 2001.

2011

died on 20 October,
at the University of
Wales Hospital after
a short illness.

Obituary Brian James Whipp 1937-2011



Written by

Susan A Ward

Brian Whipp was born and grew up in Tredegar in the South Wales Valleys. His first love was sport and, after qualifying as a teacher at Loughborough College in 1960, he was a Lecturer in Physical Education at Dudley Technical College and then at Prince of Wales College in St Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. The award of a Danforth Graduate Fellowship allowed him, however, to consider a research career. Following a BSc (1963) and MA (1964) in Physical Education at the University of Florida in Gainesville, he gained a PhD in Physiology from Stanford University in 1967 under the tutelage of Karlman Wasserman and then moved with him to the Division of Respiratory Physiology and Medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center,

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Torrance, California. Following a brief period as a Lecturer in the Department of Physiology at University College Cardiff, he became an Assistant Professor of Physiology and Medicine at UCLA, later to become Professor of Physiology and Medicine and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Physiology. He returned to the UK in 1992 as Head of the Department of Physiology at St George's Hospital Medical School, retiring as Emeritus Professor in 2001.

Brian and his collaborators produced defining research in muscle energetics, pulmonary gas exchange and ventilatory control during exercise. His early recognition that control systems analysis and mathematical modelling provided a means of remotely interrogating physiological system function has proved highly influential not only because of its impact on experimental technique, but also because it has provided a valuable slant on homeostatic operations as diverse as ATP status in skeletal muscle and arterial blood pH

regulation and how these are challenged at the limits of tolerance. Indeed, his research undertaken at St George's with John Griffiths in the late 1990s allowed the kinetics of intra-muscular high-energy phosphate turnover and pH to be quantified with high fidelity in concert with oxygen uptake kinetics while subjects exercised inside a 'whole-body' NMR magnet, a technical feat others have yet to reproduce.

Brian was elected a Member of The Physiological Society in 1984 and regularly presented at Meetings. He served on the Committee (1993–1997) and was an Editor on the Board of Experimental Physiology (1994–2000).

Brian was also a scholar of Shakespeare, and intensely interested in philosophy, literature and music but, above all, he was a family man. He died on 20 October, 2011 at the University of Wales Hospital Cardiff, after a short illness.