Dave Shirley was born in Hull, which explains his lifelong devotion to Hull City FC. He obtained his degree in Physiology from Sheffield University and his PhD at Chelsea College under the supervision of Sebastian Dicker. In 1972 he was appointed Lecturer in Physiology at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School. His research thereafter was based on in vivo renal micropuncture and, in collaboration with Robert Unwin, microperfusion. These techniques allowed widespread investigations into segmental renal function, most notably, perhaps, clarification of the value (and shortcomings) of renal lithium clearance measurements as a non-invasive method for determining separately the function of the proximal and distal segments of the nephrons.

Dave was a perfectionist. His surgery was meticulous and great attention to detail was applied to everything. He was also a gifted, popular and enthusiastic teacher; whenever students were questioned about the merits of the teaching staff, he invariably came out on top. It is a measure of the esteem in which he was held that, on hearing of his illness and treatment, some 400 UCL students added their names to the register of bone marrow donors.

The merger of Imperial College and the Charing Cross and St Mary’s Medical Schools was not to Dave’s liking and, not being a man to compromise, he resigned his position as Senior Lecturer. However, he had just been awarded a grant to study the renal handling of aluminium. He got round this problem by arranging for the grant to be transferred to his fellow researchers and applying for a part-time post at a much reduced salary – nominally as a junior research assistant, however, there was little doubt who was driving the research.

The Society also regrets to announce the deaths of:

Alan Chipperfield
Paul Richardson
and Rolf Niedergerke.

Full obituaries for Alan Chipperfield, Brian Whipp and Dave Shirley can be found on The Society website at: www.physoc.org/late-members