



John on the river in France.

John was a private person, never arrogant and never known to talk about his achievements, many of which I have discovered whilst writing this article and many of which I have not even mentioned. But he was always a friend and a mentor to his colleagues. What I did discover about him was that he was also a loving and devoted family man. In fact, it was in this role that he became a playwright, writing and producing 3-act plays at Christmas in which he usually cast himself as the grandpa. This meant he was the one member of the cast who did not need to dress up and had very little participation while he orchestrated the whole event. He also loved to entertain (many a good party at his home), loved his house in France and just enjoyed company, good food, good wine and a laugh.

John leaves his wife Margaret and four children, Jonathon, Toby, Marian and Stephen, and five grandchildren. His second son, Hilary, predeceased him. He also leaves a scientific community that, like his family, will miss him.

Saffron Whitehead

(with grateful contributions from Giovanni Fontana and Clive Page)

Footnote

It was sadly ironic that John wrote about himself in his Living History article for the Autumn issue of *Physiology News* (PN 84) this year with the title '*It was the cough that carried him off*'. If you have not already done so it is well worth reading to get John's own personal, funny and self-reflective account of his life (www.physoc.org/magazine).

John T. Shepherd

1919–2011

John Shepherd was elected a Member of The Society in 1951 and elected to the Committee in 1957. He began his research career in Belfast where he worked with ADM Greenfield measuring blood flow in the hand, using plethysmography. However, as described below by MJ Joyner, the major part of his research was done at the Mayo Clinic in the US.



John Shepherd, MD, a visionary Mayo Clinic physiologist who headed the American Heart Association, served as a NASA adviser and led US scientific exchanges with the Soviet Union during the Cold War, died October 4. He was 92.

Dr Shepherd made major contributions to understanding the regulation of the circulatory system, producing more than 300 scientific publications and four books. He was president of the American Heart Association in 1975–76. He was also a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

John received many awards over the years, including honorary degrees from the Universities of Bologna, Ghent and Queen's. He was actively involved with NASA and the National Academy of Sciences, and chaired the Academy's Committee on Space Medicine from 1965 to 1974. During the Cold War, he helped the US space program by working with colleagues in the then-Soviet Union on space physiology.

Dr Shepherd was recognised as a giant in cardiovascular physiology who made fundamental observations about blood pressure regulation in

humans and many other elements of cardiovascular control. He was also a visionary leader who engaged in and promoted translational research 30 or 40 years before it was a buzz word at NIH (National Institutes of Health) and in the scientific community,

While John performed cutting-edge scientific work, he was also leading the ongoing transformation of the Mayo Clinic from a group practice to a group practice embedded in a world-class academic medical centre.

He was born May 21, 1919, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and received his MB, BCh, MChir and MD with honours from Queen's University in Belfast. He completed his internship and residency at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

Later, he joined the academic staff at Queen's in the Department of Physiology. In 1953, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to go to the Mayo Clinic for one year to engage in cardiovascular research. The selection of the Mayo Clinic was based on his brother's enthusiasm after reading *The Doctors Mayo* in the late 1940s.

John returned to Northern Ireland but eventually moved to the US in 1957 and joined the Mayo where he spent the rest of his professional career.

He and his three close colleagues in the small Department of Physiology at Queen's University later became deans of medical schools around the world.

At the Mayo Clinic John was Director of Research from 1969 to 1976. He became Director for Education of the Mayo Foundation and Dean of the new Mayo Medical School from 1977 to 1983. This included responsibility for the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine and Mayo School of Health-Related Sciences. From 1983 to 1988, he chaired the Mayo Board of Development and was actively involved in establishment of the Mayo Clinic campus in Jacksonville, Florida. He retired from the Mayo Clinic in 1989. In 2003, he published a memoir, *Inside the Mayo Clinic*.



"As I look back on my fifty years at Mayo Clinic and Foundation, I am astonished at its metamorphosis beyond what William Worrall Mayo, and particularly his sons, Charles Horace Mayo and William James Mayo, first envisioned", Shepherd wrote in his book.

John is survived by his second wife, Marion, a son and a daughter, four step-children, five grandchildren, eight step-grandchildren and a great-grandson.

MJ Joyner
Mayo Clinic

The Society regrets to announce the deaths of Martin Rosenberg, Paul Richardson and Brian Whipp.

Martin died on 15 October. He was elected a Member in 1968 when he was in The Department of Physiology, Basic Medical Sciences, Queen Mary & Westfield College. For many years he was effectively the official photographer for The Society and took a very active part in the recording of Oral Histories. By doing considerable homework before every session, he was able to get the maximum value from each interviewee.

Paul Richardson, who was at St George's Medical School, died on 11 October. He was elected a Member in 1973 and was an Editor for *The Journal of Physiology* from 1974 to 1978.

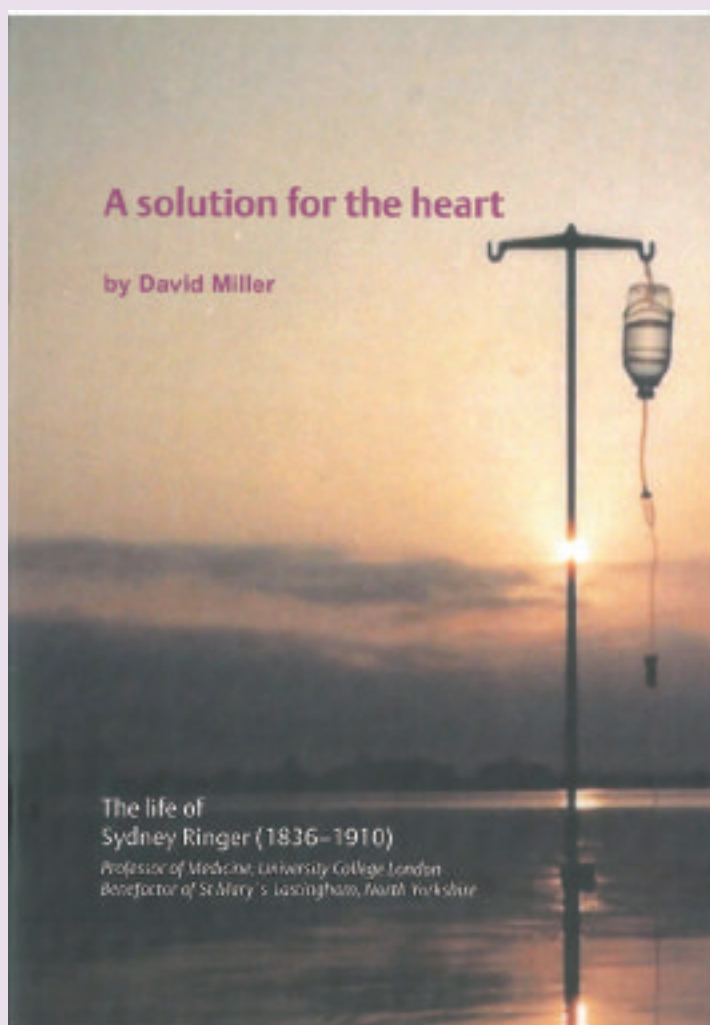
Brian was elected as a Member in 1984. He served on the Committee from 1993 to 1997, and was an Editor on the board of *Experimental Physiology* from 1994 to 2000.

Paton Prize Bursary

The Paton Prize should not be confused with the Paton Lecture. The Prize was established in 1994 and takes the form of a bursary of up to £1000 to cover travel and incidental expenses. It is open to all Members and Affiliates of The Society, as well as established scientists.

Professor Sir William Paton originated the Prize to encourage the historical study of major ideas and concepts that have shaped modern physiology. The History & Archives Committee administers the Prize and would be delighted to receive applications describing a proposed piece of historical research which could lead to a published paper, a booklet or an article for *Physiology News*.

The Paton Prize was awarded in 2007 to David Miller for research into the life and work of Sydney Ringer.



A solution for the heart: the life of Sydney Ringer (1836–1910)
David Miller (2007)

Applications, in the form of an outline of the proposed work on one side of A4, should be submitted to jberriman@physoc.org by the 16 January 2012 for consideration by the committee. Anyone wanting more details or to talk through an idea is invited to contact the committee chair, Dafydd Walters (dwalters@sgul.ac.uk).