

committed to the welfare of his students. For us, his life was, indeed, a life ended untimely.

Y S Bakhle

(I am grateful to Chris' friends and colleagues for their help in writing this obituary).

Veronica Campbell adds:

Chris Bell was appointed to the Chair of Physiology in Trinity College Dublin in 1995 and under his wise and experienced hand, the Department expanded research activity and postgraduate training in exercise physiology and neuroscience. He was deeply involved with the Irish Medical Council's reorganisation of medical education, which continues to bear fruit, and he held the position of Director of Preclinical Studies in Trinity for a number of years. His keen interest in undergraduate education is reflected by the publication in 2005 of *Case-based medical physiology* written with Trefor Morgan and Cecil Kidd. He challenged our students to express their full intellectual potential using a tough, yet endearing, paternalistic manner. His relationship with staff over his 12 year tenure developed into one of 'optimal homeostasis'. Neophytes, in particular, benefited from his experience and ability to ignite their potential.

An excellent photographic portrait of Chris now hangs in the Department. This most recent addition to the line of occupants of the Chair of Physiology at Trinity College, captures the attention of even a casual observer, as it is the only portrait with a smiling face. This is a poignant daily reminder of the man we knew and respected.

A student's perspective from Saoirse O'Sullivan

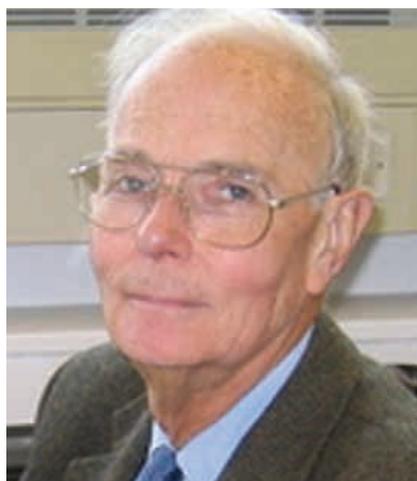
I joined the Department of Physiology as a Junior Sophister student, the year after Chris was appointed to the Chair at Trinity. Chris was an intimidating figure and not all students took to his 'interrogative' form of teaching. His was the only class where everyone studied *before* entering, and we were all the better for it! I enjoyed Chris's course on cardiovascular physiology so much that I went on to complete my Senior Sophister research project with him, during which time he persuaded

me to carry on to a PhD (in fact, he may have filled in the forms for me!). That was typical of Chris, always thinking ahead for his students. I was only in the first year of my PhD when he asked where I was thinking of going for my post-doc! Even after I left the Department and moved across the water, Chris continued to mentor me and advise me on my career progression, and it is without doubt that I would not be where I am today without Chris's constant support and guidance. Chris's technique was a perfect balance of guidance and letting you find your own way. Indeed, I feel privileged to have been guided by such a supervisor and now, as I am just about to embark on the supervision of my first PhD student, I hope that I can follow in his footsteps.

Other than nurturing my academic progression, I also have Chris to thank for the following, for which I am eternally grateful: an unusually expensive taste in white wine, a serious appreciation for olives, having dined in some excellent restaurants and an aspiration to live in a beautiful big old house. He is greatly missed.

William Keatinge

1931–2008



William Richard Keatinge (Bill) was born on the 18 May 1931. He was educated at Rugby School and subsequently studied medicine at Pembroke College, Cambridge and St Thomas's Hospital in London. He completed his National Service with the Navy in Cambridge (1956–58) before taking up the post of Director of Studies in Medicine and Junior

Fellow at Pembroke College Cambridge (1958–60). He subsequently spent 1/2 years in San Francisco as a Fulbright Scholar before returning to England to an MRC post and Fellowship at Pembroke College, Oxford (1961–68).

Bill joined the Department of Physiology at the London Hospital Medical College (LHMC) as Reader in Physiology on 1 January 1969 and was promoted to a Personal Chair in Physiology in July 1970. Bill was appointed Head of the Department of Physiology in October 1981. Following the merger of the Basic Medical Sciences Departments from LHMC and St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College (Barts) in 1990 with Queen Mary and Westfield College (QMW) Bill became Head of Physiology in the joint school. He held this post until his retirement in 1995 when he became an Emeritus Professor.

Bill ran an active and successful research group, which was highly rated and supported by the MRC for many years, with a series of project and programme grants. Among his many publications are important articles on survival in cold water and local mechanisms controlling blood vessels. He had many international collaborations, developed especially close links with Russia and led a large EU Eurowinter grant which co-ordinated research in eight European countries. Following the break up of the Soviet Union it became possible for him to extend his Eurowinter project to Siberia. He made full use of the advantages of being part of a multi-faculty environment at Queen Mary, University of London, by forging a link with the Russian Department and learning to speak the language well enough to be understood on his visits to the new Russia. He wrote many chapters in textbooks and journals of both physiology and medicine, principally on temperature regulation and the control of blood vessels.

Bill served as Preclinical Dean at the LHMC, at a time of considerable

change and uncertainty. The merger of the preclinical departments at the LHMC, with those at Barts and the move to QMW eventually happened but only after discussions lasting over 20 years and many false dawns. A new building at QMW and a new curriculum were initiated at the time of the merger in 1990 and Bill had played a leading role in designing and implementing these changes.

In the following year Bill was elected Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences at QMW. He took on the reins of authority at yet another difficult time for the Faculty when student numbers were being rapidly increased and staff appointments reduced. In 1994 Bill's term as Dean ended and he was content to leave administration behind to concentrate on his research, which was of paramount importance to him. He retired in 1995 but continued to attract grant funding and pursue his research interests. He retained an office and facilities at Queen Mary and concentrated on environmental problems such as global warming and the fact that cold caused far more deaths than heat. He was frequently the expert, interviewed by the media, at times of extreme cold and during heat waves.

Bill also made substantial contributions to the teaching of human physiology to undergraduates and postgraduates throughout his career. He organised the whole body and nutrition module in the Integrated Curriculum introduced in 1990 at QMW for the large combined intake of medical students at the new Mile End site.

Bill was first married to Annette Hegarty who predeceased him and with whom he had three children, Richard, Claire and Mary. He subsequently found happiness again with Lynette Nelson who became his second wife. His children and Lynette survive him. Although he became ill several years ago he faced his illness with considerable courage and dignity. He continued to work until a few weeks before his death and completed the write-up of his final

projects in a distinguished research career. He will be greatly missed not only by his family but also by his many friends and colleagues.

Bill was elected to membership of The Society in 1968, served on the Committee from 1977 to 1981 and was a member of the Editorial Board of *The Journal of Physiology* from 1979 to 1986.

Margaret Bird

Speed, Ecstasy, Ritalin

The science of amphetamines
By Lesley Iversen. Oxford University Press. 222 pp, £12.95 (paperback)

ISBN 978-0-19-853090-9

Amphetamines are commonly used both medicinally and recreationally in our society. There are numerous descriptions about how they work and how safe or dangerous they are. In this book, Leslie Iversen has provided a nicely structured and easy to read review of the science of amphetamines alongside their medicinal applications and their recreational uses that would be equally readable by an informed scientist or lay reader. He gives a balanced description of the good, the bad and the ugly of amphetamines, from the positive clinical results seen in some patients with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) to the very sinister methamphetamine (crystal meth) addiction epidemic that is sweeping some parts of the world. The author himself has set out in this book to highlight the 'good and evil' of these drugs without personal opinion. Many amphetamines, including ecstasy, are Schedule 1 (Classification A) which classifies them as dangerous narcotics. Their use is also illegal. Medically, these drugs do not always have such dangerous effects as propaganda says; however, because of the illegal and classification status, they are often portrayed in this way as a deterrent from their use. The chapters stand alone, making it a useful text for delving into for specific information. The book begins with an introduction to the

chemistry of amphetamines and their effects on the brain which sets the scene for the applications of amphetamines discussed in later chapters. He describes the medical uses of amphetamines and gives a very interesting account of their rise and fall in terms of therapeutic effects to many different diseases followed by the discovery of negative side effects, including addiction and toxicity. The two following chapters describe the uses as performance enhancers and as substances of abuse and a plethora of scientific reasoning for both are provided. Chapter 6 highlights how research into amphetamine-induced psychosis has been beneficial in identifying brain mechanisms underlying schizophrenia where psychotic behaviours are similar. The final three chapters give a balanced case for amphetamines, their potential dangers and also their useful efficacy in many clinical situations. Positive additions to this book are the short personal experiences of patients being treated with amphetamines and also abusers of amphetamine that are scattered throughout the text. They help the reader to understand the scientific explanations by reading individual experiences. Overall, this book is a stimulating and intellectual read, with bundles of good science weaved into an informative story which would be useful to anyone interested in the uses and abuses of amphetamines.

Fiona Randall

Technicians

The Royal Society has published a themed issue of *Notes and Records* entitled *Technicians*. Two of the papers included – *Working with C Sherrington* (an interview with Mr T J Surman) and *Working with Cambridge physiologists* (an interview with Clive Hood) – may be of particular interest to Society Members. *Notes and Records* subscribers can access the issue at <http://publishing.royalsociety.org>. Print copies (£16) are available from Portland Customer Services, Commerce Way, Colchester CO2 8HP (+44 (0) 1206 796351, sales@portland-services.com).