

setting up in Dave's laboratory the method of juxtacellular labelling, which would allow us to examine the anatomy of neurons in the nucleus of the solitary tract (NTS) after they had been characterized electrophysiologically and pharmacologically. Dave had just received funding from the Wellcome Trust for a project on the intracellular recording of NTS neurons, so there was no problem in switching to a method that would produce a higher yield of filled cells.

From our first discussions about collaborating, Dave's depth of knowledge about central cardiovascular and central respiratory control, not only in standard laboratory mammals but also from a comparative perspective, was particularly impressive. He was also very good at explaining the intricacies of NTS electrophysiology and pharmacology to a novice ('There are *how many* 5-HT receptor subtypes in the NTS!') and showed great patience in the face of some pretty uninformed questions. These qualities clearly made him such a respected and well-liked teacher, who in his last years was reviewing the curricula and performance of new medical and dental schools in south east Asia. I think the fact that he was an unassuming boy from the north of England with very few airs and graces, even when he became the Professor of Physiology at the Royal Free and University College Medical School in 1999, also contributed to the empathetic relationships that he had with students and colleagues.

Dave employed Gareth Jones on his Wellcome Trust grant and, within weeks, Gareth and Dave were successfully filling NTS neurons with Neurobiotin and doing histochemistry to reveal them with ExtrAvidin-horseradish peroxidase. This success made me appreciate another two of Dave's admirable scientific qualities. One was that he was truly a technically expert electrophysiologist, able to get complex and difficult methods up and running when other less accomplished researchers could not. The second was that he was not only willing, but also able, to follow very detailed instructions given to him by a neuroanatomist with very exacting standards, i.e. me.

The auspicious beginning to our joint work made by Dave and Gareth became the basis for a major part of my grant application to the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia in 2000. This application was funded from 2001 to 2003, with Dave as an Associate

Investigator. We also received support from the Wellcome Trust in the form of a Biomedical Research Collaboration Grant (9/2002-8/2005) that facilitated a number of reciprocal visits between Dave's and my laboratories.

Because Brits think Australia is very far away and Australians think that the UK is within easy reach, I visited Dave's laboratory many more times than he visited mine. Being a kind and generous person, Dave offered me a bed at his house for the duration of my first visit and that became our pattern. Most of my fondest memories of Dave come from my stays at 108 Purves Road. We had our favourite restaurants in his neighbourhood, where we enjoyed many memorable meals after working late in the lab. At least once during every visit, we would eat a frozen Indian meal from Sainsbury's at his kitchen table, drinking a bottle of Australian (or any old) red, talking serious science and intermittently gossiping our heads off. Dave always had a balanced view of life. Regardless of how busy our schedule was (or how keen I was to keep working), he made sure that we took time off to do something non-scientific. There were visits to stately homes, museums and sights of interest. Our last interlude was a wonderful day together at Aylesbury on our way to the 2005 Physiological Society meeting in Bristol. Dave was a keen gardener, and whenever I visited in spring or summer, a tour of the garden was mandatory, as was a discussion about the neighbour who had someone come in every 6 months to scythe the weeds that invaded her backyard.

I was always touched by the fact that Dave was a loving and dutiful son, who regularly telephoned his parents. I was also highly amused that he reverted to his boyhood accent when he spoke to them. Although he never said 'Ta-ra' to me, that was the way his conversations with his Mum and Dad always ended. Dave and I also spoke often by phone and I will never forget how his voice lifted from a rather flat 'hello' when he realized he was speaking to a friend.

Dave and I worked together for 7 years. During that time, many NTS neurons were filled by Gareth, Dan and Diana; and a number of brains have yet to be cut and processed for immunohistochemistry, so Dave's input to my research will continue for many years to come.

Dave's friends and colleagues speak of him fondly and think of him often. We miss him terribly. His impact on our

science and our lives has been profound.

Ida Llewellyn-Smith
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Australia

Venetia Franglen

1941–2007

I first met Venetia at UCL in 1964, when she was a PhD student and I a mere MSC student, and came to know her better as a friend and colleague when I joined the Physiology Department at King's. Her work on ion and electrolyte transport in frog skin and fetal sheep and pig skin was a development of work she had started during her PhD at Chelsea College under the supervision of SE Dicker, a leading renal physiologist, who worked on neurohormones. She also worked with Richard Durbin, an eminent gastric physiologist, on ouabain binding sites in gastric mucosa.

At King's she became deeply enmeshed in student welfare and was Sub-Dean in the Medical Faculty for 5 or 6 years. She was mother confessor to successive waves of adoring students, as a student-friendly face in the Medical Faculty.

This led to Venetia's interest in curriculum development for medical pre-clinical studies. She retired from King's and with her family, husband Geoffrey (an ex-physiologist, who ran the admissions programme at St George's Hospital Medical School) and two sons, moved to Hereford to become a tutor in biology at the Open University and then Curriculum Development Facilitator at her *alma mater*, UCL.

Living in Hereford allowed her to develop her two other great interests – her family and her Christian work. She was deeply religious, but carried this lightly. She engaged actively in the life of the Cathedral as a verger and became involved in several charities, amongst which was Cancer Experience Collaborative where she became a Research Partner.

Venetia was wonderfully friendly, kind, good natured, hospitable and generous, she devoted huge amounts of her time to others, particularly Geoffrey, who was for many years, a chronic invalid. She will be greatly missed.

Richard Naftalin
With prompts from Ana Ilundain,
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