

Eberhard Buhl

1959 – 2003



Born in Germany in 1959, Eberhard Buhl graduated in medicine from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt in 1984. In 1987 he was awarded the higher degree of Doctor of Medicine *summa cum laude* by the same University. Following appointments as postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Neuroanatomy at the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research (1984–1987), and as Staff Scientist in the Institute's Department of Neurophysiology (1987–1988), he took up an appointment as research officer in the Vision, Touch and Hearing Research Centre at the University of Queensland, Australia. In June 1990 he became an MRC Scientist in the MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit in the University of Oxford and, in 1996, was appointed as tenured MRC Senior Scientist and Group Leader. Eberhard Buhl took up the chair of Neurobiology in the School of Biomedical Sciences at Leeds University in October 1999.

By the time of his arrival in Leeds Professor Buhl had already achieved international renown as an experimental neuroscientist, devoted to advancing the understanding of brain function through his research interests in areas such as cortical networks, signalling processes in neuronal circuits and cortical rhythmogenesis. He was an exceptionally skilled neuroanatomist and latterly electrophysiologist. He used these techniques in a highly

complementary fashion to pioneer the study of structure in relation to function in the brain. He published many papers using this combined approach in high-profile journals, setting the 'gold standard' for such work around the world. In what is now a classic series of experiments Professor Buhl demonstrated the mechanism behind specific, rhythmic brain activity of cognitive relevance. This seminal work precipitated an entirely new field in neuroscience – that of *in vitro* brain rhythms – and it is impossible to overestimate the impact this work has had and will continue to have for many decades to come.

During his time in Leeds Professor Buhl's research continued to make very substantial and significant progress, attracting major research grants totalling over £2 million, from UK sources such as the MRC and the Wellcome Trust, and also overseas from German medical research charities and the National Institutes of Health in the USA. He set up a number of key research collaborations with industrial partners. In 2001 he was made an editor of *The Journal of Physiology* and, in the following year, was appointed to membership of the Neuroscience Board of the MRC.

Professor Buhl's appetite and passion for scientific research did not prevent his taking a full part in other academic and managerial activities. From his earliest days he maintained an active interest in teaching and at Leeds taught neuroscience to both science and medical students. Indicative of the esteem he had with his peers, Professor Buhl was appointed as Head of the School of Biomedical Sciences in January 2002. He also chaired, graciously and effectively, the School's Executive Committee, Estates Committee and Neuroscience Group.

Miles A. Whittington

School of Biomedical Sciences
University of Leeds

Bernard Katz

1911 – 2003

Elected Member 1940

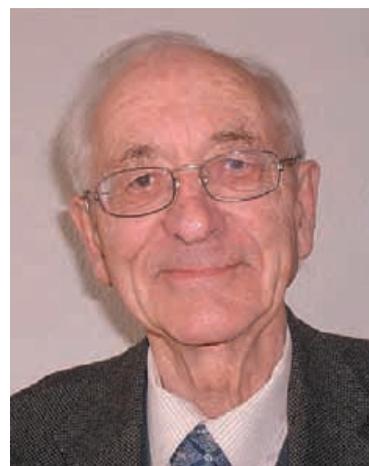
Elected Honorary Member
1979



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E. Geoffrey Walsh

Elected 1952, Died 26 March
2003



Full obituaries of Sir Bernard Katz and Dr E. Geoffrey Walsh will be published in the next issue of *Physiology News*