Declan Anderson was a dentist and physiologist; but foremost, a scientist. He died at the age of 95 on Easter Day, 27 March 2016. He was educated at Christ's Hospital School and Guy's Hospital. After graduating in dentistry in 1942, he went on to obtain a B.Sc. in Physiology in 1946, and a Ph.D. in 1955. During these latter studies, he held clinical posts and a lectureship in Physiology at Guy's.

He published widely and his first paper, on the temperature changes in teeth produced by drilling, was on research done as an undergraduate. He was the first person to record masticatory forces in humans during natural chewing. He did this with a miniature transducer that he skilfully engineered and incorporated into a gold inlay in a molar. This was featured in a live broadcast from his laboratory in one of the early programmes in the BBC's Tomorrow's World series. But he is very fond of practical jokes, which he often devised with his friend James Mansie, an oral surgeon at Guy's. He found support for this view in the 1960s from Arthur Darling, who was dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Bristol at the time, and also a dentist. As a result, Bristol created lectureship posts for dentists in the departments of Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology in the Medical School, and a chair in Oral Biology for someone to oversee these posts and integrate basic science and clinical teaching in the Dental School. Declan was appointed to that chair in 1966, and remained in the post until he retired in 1985.

The group that he formed in Bristol was very successful, and representatives from dental schools around the world came to see how the system worked. Dental students were encouraged to intercalate a B.Sc. in a basic science during their course and continue to a Ph.D.; and many did so. As a result, a large number of senior posts in dental research in this country and abroad have been filled by Declan's students. At the last count, 12 of his Ph.D. students are professors and amongst these are past or present heads of department and deans, and the editor of an international research journal.

Declan was great fun; he had a wonderful sense of humour and sharp wit. He always included amusing anecdotes relevant to the subject under discussion in his lectures, and they were very popular with students. He was very fond of practical jokes, which he often devised with his friend James Mansie, an oral surgeon at Guy's.

Declan was an accomplished silversmith, and was commissioned to make many pieces as gifts or presentations for individuals and organisations; all with his DJA hallmark, of which he was very proud. He wrote a book on silversmithing.

His wife, Joy, predeceased him, as did two of their seven children.