

In memoriam



Professor John Barrett 1943-2011

Prof. Barrett was born on 21 October 1943 in Chippenham-Wiltshire, England. He gained a scholarship to study zoology to the University of Cambridge and graduated in 1965, continued at the same University to study for PhD, which was awarded for his work for parasitology in 1968 and an MA in 1969. For three years Professor Barrett held a National Institute of Health research fellowship at the University of Massachusetts. A further MA followed in 1971, this time from Oxford University, Queen's College, after taking up a Browne Research Fellowship.

In 1973, he moved to the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth as a Lecturer. In 1981 he published a book "Biochemistry of Parasitic Helminths" Was promoted to Senior Lecturer in October 1982. His DSci was awarded in 1982 from the University of Wales and in 1983 was appointed Professor of Zoology. His teaching Areas were: Parasitology, Immunology, Equine Immunology, Parasitology and Bacteriology, Social Risk and Environmental health Impact Assessment.

Professor Barrett was chief of Department of Zoology and vice-director of the Institute of Biological Sciences. From the beginning of 2000 he was appointed Pro Vice-chancellor from which he retired in 2006 when he was appointed as Acting Head of the Sport and Exercise Science Department.

Professor Barrett continued to work on a part time basis, teaching and demonstrating until 2009. He continued with research activities in parasitology until late 2010.

His research areas were: differences in metabolism between parasites and their hosts are potential sites for chemotherapy, whilst differences between parasites and their free-living relatives give an insight into the biochemical basis of parasitism. Research is centred around metabolic pathways, their control and how they change during the life cycle of helminth parasites. Mostly he was interested on lipid metabolism in *Cestoda* with a model *Hymenolepis diminuta*.

He was chairperson of the WHO steering committee on chemotherapy for schistosomiasis (1987-1992), and has been honoured in the UK (Wright Medal) and USA (Bueding von Brand Medal) for services to parasitology research. He was President of the British Society of Parasitology.

Professor John Barrett was closed to Bulgarian Parasitologists. He visited Bulgaria several times, taking part of our conferences with many plenary lectures. Lately we took part with him in a project of 6 FP "Design of effective and sustainable control strategies for liver fluke in Europe". He is an honorary member of the Bulgarian Society of Parasitology.

Being a noted parasitologist, university lecturer and administrator,

John Barrett was also known for his selfless dedication to others.

He is survived by his wife Dr Penny Barrett, two daughters, Sara and Kate and four grandchildren.

Prof. Ilia Bankov, DSci

