



ELSEVIER

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

Journal of Hospital Infection

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jhin

Obituary

Dr SWB Newsom (1932–2018)



Bill Newsom was born in Birmingham, England, in 1932, the only son of a Samuel Newsom a general surgeon and Euthalie an ophthalmic pharmacist. He was educated at Rossall School in Lancashire, and Caius College Cambridge (BA, 1953). He qualified as a doctor from Westminster Hospital Medical School; subsequent qualifications included Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 1964, MRCPATH 1964, MD 1977 and FRCPath.

After house jobs at Westminster and Addenbrooke's Hospitals, Bill became a lecturer in medical microbiology at Westminster Hospital Medical School. His knowledge and quiet sense of humour made him a popular and memorable lecturer. Subsequently, he undertook military service in Malaya and Hong Kong, where his interest in sterilisation developed.

In 1967, Bill was appointed consultant microbiologist to Papworth and Addenbrooke's Hospitals and he remained in this post until his retirement in 1995. During this time, he chaired the local ethical, infection control and drug and therapeutics committees. He also served with the Public Health Laboratory

Service and on the UK Department of Health & Social Security (DHSS) Medical Devices Agency Microbiology Advisory Panel, and was a member of the European Standard Committee for Disinfectants.

While at Papworth and Addenbrooke's Hospitals, Bill's advice was much sought after by clinical colleagues. He became a leading authority on infective endocarditis and on infections complicating cardiac transplantation. His many contributions to microbiology included original work on laboratory safety and safety cabinets, evaluation of disinfectants, nosocomial infections and the history of infection control. He was the first person to discover an important β -lactamase enzyme, PSE-4, in *Pseudomonas*. Altogether, he published around 160 papers.

Bill was particularly proud and enthusiastic about his association with the Hospital (later Healthcare) Infection Society (HIS) and the *Journal of Hospital Infection* (JHI). He was a founder member, and a member of the first Council, of the Society and he delivered a paper at the first HIS meeting in January 1980. From 1984 to 1988 he was Treasurer of the Society, and during this period was also Treasurer to the First International Conference of HIS. The income from this conference considerably strengthened the financial position of the Society. Bill became President of the society from 1998 to 2002.

In the early days of the JHI, Bill was a member of the Editorial Board. He was Assistant Editor from 1993 to 2002. Even after his retirement from Papworth Hospital he continued to referee and edit numerous papers submitted to the journal, when he took great delight in achieving a rapid turnaround.

In 2013 Bill was recognised for his outstanding work for the Society and the Journal by being awarded the Gold Medal of the Society. Bill will always be remembered with fondness for his dedication to HIS, his generosity, kindness, faith and wise counsel.

Bill is survived by his wife Rose, his sons Richard and David, and five grandchildren.

Richard Newsom^aDavid Shanson^b^aRoyal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle, UK^bChelsea & Westminster Hospital, UK