



Edward Martin Fielden

23rd November 1938 – 29th May 2022

Dr Edward Martin Fielden, affectionately known by most as Martin, passed away on 29th May 2022 at home. He was born on 23rd November 1938 in Leeds, UK. Martin was educated at Heath Grammar school in Halifax, UK, before going on to read chemistry at Manchester University. He then specialised in the field of radiation chemistry for which he was awarded his PhD in the early 1960s.

The start of Dr Fielden's scientific career in 1966 involved a trip across the pond to take up a two-year post-doc at the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago. He then decided to return to the UK to take up a prestigious position to head a new group at the Institute of Cancer Research within the world-renowned Royal Marsden Hospital in London. This position gave him the opportunity to transition from basic radiation research and focussed on cancer research through radiation in combination with drug development in the fight against cancer. In 1983, he moved to the Medical Research Council's Radiation and Genome Stability Unit at Harwell, UK to continue his research where he extended his remit to radiation protection in addition to drug development for cancer treatments.

Dr Fielden's research interests focussed mainly on biological aspects of radiation research involving pioneering approaches to study mechanisms of radiation-induced DNA damage in *E. coli* and later in mammalian cells, when he developed his interests in stable nitroxyl free radicals as radiosensitisers in a collaboration with the healthcare company, Roche. He was involved in seminal studies on unravelling the mechanisms by which Superoxide Dismutase interacts with its substrate superoxide, a novel role in protection against reactive oxygen species. He has made many significant contributions to the field of radiation research both as a researcher and a mentor, reflected in his numerous publications.

Dr Martin Fielden has been a longstanding Member of the Radiation Research Society, which honoured his achievements with the award of the prestigious RRS Research Award (latterly known as the Michael Fry Research award) in 1978. He also received the David-Anderson-Berry Gold medal, presented by the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in recognition of his work on the development of radio sensitising drugs and the action of radiation on cells. He was a longstanding member of the Association for Radiation Research (ARR) and became Treasurer (1974-78) and Chairperson (1988-90). In 2003, he was made a Honorary member of the ARR.

He continued to distinguish himself in the field and in 1987, he was elected Secretary-General of the 8th International Congress of Radiation Research, which was held in Edinburgh under the patronage of the late H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, K.G. This meeting and its organisation was one of the high points of his achievements.

Unsurprisingly for such an eminent scientist in his field, he frequently travelled abroad to international conferences, workshops and collaborations at the invitation of many foreign research establishments as a consultant in organising scientific meetings. His visits took him to most European countries, on both sides of what was then the Iron Curtain, as well as to the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and China. However, of all the countries he visited, it can be said with some certainty that his favourite was Italy, due to the early friendships he established with Italian co-researchers in his Group at Institute of Cancer Research and his liking for Italian wine.

Dr Martin Fielden took early retirement in the mid-1990s due to long-term health issues, although this did not hold him back, as he continued to have an active life becoming a staunch Rotarian and as expected one of the Club's officers.

Dr Martin Fielden was an internationally renowned radiation chemist/biologist, a respected mentor to the young researchers, who he nurtured as they developed their own careers. He was a caring person who would help others and he had a great sense of humour. It was a pleasure to be in his company. He was a family man and loved cooking and travelling, especially to Italy. He is survived by his loving wife, Jo, and his 3 sons (Alastair, Tristan and Nick) and their families.