Malcolm Harold Chisholm
BSc, PhD, DSc (Lond), FRS, FAAAS, FRSC, Fellow Leopoldina
15 October 1945 - 20 November 2015

Malcolm H. Chisholm, Distinguished University Professor at The Ohio State University, a Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry and an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences died on November 20, 2015 at the age of 70 following a long illness.

Malcolm H. Chisholm was educated in England and moved to Canada in 1969 as a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer at the University of Western Ontario. In 1972 he accepted a faculty position at Princeton University and subsequently moved to Indiana University in 1978. In January 2000 he moved from Bloomington to The Ohio State University as a Distinguished Professor of Mathematical & Physical Sciences. In 2006, he was named Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Ohio State University, and served as chair of the department from 2008 to 2011.

Malcolm was an eminent scholar in inorganic chemistry with leading research in the area of metal-metal bond chemistry and fundamental understanding of molecular structure and electronic properties of transition metal complexes. He discovered new charge transfer excited states of quadruply-bonded complexes which he probed using ultrafast spectroscopy and designed new systems to gain better understanding of intervalence charge transfer. His work extended to applications in the areas of catalysts for the generation of biodegradable polymers, new metallo-organic polymers that form liquid crystals, and in the discovery of new materials for use in photovoltaic cells for solar energy conversion.

Malcolm's stature in the field is evident from his prestigious recognitions and awards. He received the American Chemical Society Award (ACS) in Inorganic Chemistry in 1989 and the ACS Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Inorganic Chemistry in 1999, and was the Centenary Medalist and Lecture of the Royal Society of Chemistry in 1994. Malcolm was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society, Die Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher - Leopoldina, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was the 2004 recipient of the Basolo Medal of the Chicago section of the American Chemical Society and Northwestern University, the Bailar Medal of the University of Illinois, and the Nyholm prize of the Royal Society of chemistry in 2010.

As a teacher, Malcolm touched the lives of thousands of young scientists in his classes, and he served as an inspirational mentor to numerous graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, undergraduates, and visiting scholars. His former student David L. Clark, Laboratory Fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory expressed that "above all, Malcolm will be remembered for his generosity and graciousness as a person", adding that "he had a wonderful sense of humor, and he cared deeply and genuinely about everyone around him. This extended well beyond his immediate students and colleagues, but also to their families. He was happiest when he could celebrate the successes of his family and his students."

Malcolm is survived by his three sons, Calum, Derek, and Selby. Funeral services will take place on December 5 at 1:30 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church, 700 High St., Worthington, Ohio.

Submitted by Ohio State University