

Terence George Baker

Professor Terry Baker was the son of George William John Baker of Lymington, Hants and Eugenia, née Bristow. He was born on 27 May 1936 and was educated at Coventry Technical Secondary School and the University College of North Wales, Bangor where he obtained his BSc. He got his PhD at the University of Birmingham and his DSc at the University of Edinburgh. He also obtained an honorary Doctorate from the University of Ulster in June 2002 and another from Universiti Kebangsaan, Malaysia in August 2003. He married Pauline, his childhood sweetheart, and daughter of Alfred Archer on 23 August 1958. He had 3 sons, Paul Stephen born in 1960, Noel Terence in 1961 and Martin Christopher in 1966.

He was a Career Science Master at Woodlands Boys School, Coventry in 1959-1961. He claims that his gift for university teaching came about as a result of teaching at high school level. At the University of Birmingham he was a Research Student in 1961-1964 and a Medical Research Council Research Fellow in 1964-1967. He became a Lecturer in Anatomy with the University of Birmingham in 1967-1968, and a Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the University of Edinburgh in 1968-1975. He was promoted to a Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the University of Edinburgh in 1975 and became the Professor and Head of Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Bradford in 1980. He spent some time as Dean of Natural and Applied Sciences and later, he was Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Bradford 1986-1989. From 1980-2001 he held the Established Chair in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Bradford after which he became Emeritus Professor in the same Department in 2001. As a man of vision, he incorporated external research units within the Department, such as the Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit after the Bradford City Football Stadium fire in the late 80's. He also successfully established new degree courses in Bradford University in the School of Life Sciences. He was external examiner for numerous PhD, MSc and BSc students at various universities in the UK and abroad (Australia, Ireland, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Sweden and Zambia). He also won research grants from the UK and America and was referee and assessor for staff promotions at universities both in the UK and abroad.

He was the author of numerous publications in international journals and contributed chapters to many books. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1980, Fellow of the Institute of Biology (1979), Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists (1981), Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences (1982) and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (1994).

'Prof Baker' also had a sense of civic as well as national duty and was a member of Bradford Health Authority 1982-1986, and member of the sub-Committee on Education of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences 1985-1986. He became President of Bradford Medico-Chirurgical Society 1990-1991 and was Deputy Chairman of the Research and Development Committee of the Yorkshire Regional Health Authority 1990-1994. As a Governor of Bradford Hospitals Trust, he was an active participant from 2004 until he died. He was Chair of the Yorkshire Region of the Institute of Biology 1991. In 1992, he was instrumental in bringing Institutes involved in Biomedical Science education together by helping found the Heads of University Centres of Biomedical Sciences (HUCBMS) of which in turn he has been Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

With all this academic and administrative activity, he still found time to pursue other interests including wood-carving, photography, music, natural history and computing. Above all, he had a very kind, caring, warm, people-centred, gregarious personality and was very much appreciated both by colleagues, young and old, and students. He had a keen interest in following the progress of his students long after they left the University. He also encouraged students from disadvantaged backgrounds and with physical disabilities to pursue university qualifications. He was a good loyal friend and mentor to young academics. Right up until the end he never lost his wonderful and delicious sense of humour.

Diana Anderson

Terence George Baker, DSc(Edin), HonDUniv(Ulster), HonDMedSci(Kebangsaan), FIBiol, FRCPATH, FIBMS, FRSA. Born 27 May 1936, Elected FRSE 3 March 1980, Died 22 February 2006.