
OBITUARY

ALISON McCARTNEY

Alison McCartney died on 8 March 1996 after a short and valiant battle with breast cancer just 3 weeks short of her 46th birthday. In her relatively short career she had quickly risen to being a major international figure in the world of ophthalmic pathology.

She studied medicine at Girton, Cambridge and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, qualifying in 1975 and quickly entered pathology at St Stephen's and the Charing Cross hospitals in London, obtaining MRC Path in 1981. She was appointed senior lecturer at Charing Cross in 1982 and in 1985 was appointed to the Institute of Ophthalmology, London and Moorfields Eye Hospital, and it was here that her career blossomed. She was subsequently elected FRCOphth, FRC Path, and was awarded her MD.

She developed two major interests, corneal disease and tumours of the eye and adnexa. She was a refreshing introduction of new blood into the Institute and her enthusiasm for her subject was infectious. She was soon much in demand as a co-author on many projects with the junior staff at Moorfields and the Institute and despite her own heavy schedule she always found time to spend on these projects. She also had an uncomfortable habit of not accepting conventional theories at face value and a number of people found themselves having to do a bit more thinking as a result of Alison's perceptive comments. As well as her service commitment she was busy in research and teaching and took an active part in national and international events.

In 1993, she was appointed to the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's as Iris Fund senior lecturer and a new stage of her career in ophthalmic pathology began with great promise. Surely a chair was only a short time away. Tragically, soon after the birth of her third child, advanced breast cancer was diagnosed. Despite this devastating blow she undertook a formidable workload, continuing not only a prolific output of scientific papers and research but also organising a most successful international congress on ophthalmic pathology. In addition, spurred on by her illness she made a television film about breast cancer and helped establish support groups for women less able to cope than herself. She continued working until a very short time before her death.

Alison McCartney was no dry, dusty academic but had considerable style and *joie de vivre*. She maintained an active family life

with her husband Peter, a general practitioner, and their three children. She had considerable musical talent and sang soprano delightfully when she could be persuaded. She was a wonderful colleague and friend and enjoyed the cut and thrust of debate whether discussing anything from politics to oncology. Her loss will be keenly felt both on a professional and a personal basis.

COLIN M KIRKNESS

NOTICES

The Brian Harcourt Memorial Symposium

The 7th Brian Harcourt Memorial Symposium will take place on 2 July 1996. The symposium topic will be glaucoma. Further details: Mr Mitchell Ménage, Eye Department, Leeds General Infirmary, Clarendon Wing, Belmont Grove, Leeds LS2 9NS. (Tel: 0113 243 2799; Fax: 0113 292 6479.)

Course for Standardised Ophthalmic Echography

A course for standardised ophthalmic echography will be held at the IInd University Eye Hospital, University of Vienna, Austria, on 26-31 August 1996. Further details: Professor Dr P Till, IInd University Eye Hospital Vienna, AKH, Wöhringer Gürtel 18-20, 1090 Vienna, Austria.

International Congress New Developments in Ophthalmology 1996

An international congress on 'New developments in ophthalmology' will be held on 29-31 August 1996 in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Further details: Professor Dr AF Deutman/Mrs Y Hennink, University Hospital, Department of Ophthalmology, PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, the Netherlands. (Tel: (31) 24 361 5105; Fax: (31) 24 354 0522.)

European Association for Study of Diabetes (EASDEC)

The study group on eye complications of the European Association for Study of Diabetes (EASDEC) will hold its 6th meeting on 31

August-1 September 1996 at the Bristol Hotel, Vienna, Austria in conjunction with the 32nd annual meeting of the EASD. Further details: Mondial Congress, Faulmannsgasse 4, A-1040 Vienna, Austria. (Tel: +43 1 58804 0; Fax: +43 1 5869185.)

Baylor/Welsh Cataract & Refractive Surgical Congress 1996

The Baylor/Welsh Cataract & Refractive Surgical Congress 1996 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, Texas on 5-7 September 1996. Further details: Eula Mae Childs, Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, 6501 Fannin (NC200), Houston, TX 77030, USA. (Tel: 713-798-5941; Fax: 713-798-4364.)

International Symposium on Fluorescence Angiography

The International Symposium on Fluorescence Angiography will be held at the University of St Gall, St Gall, Switzerland on 8-12 September 1996. Further details: ISFA'96, c/o AKM Congress Service, Clarastrasse 57, PO Box, CH-4005 Basel, Switzerland. (Tel: ++41 61 691 51 11; Fax: ++41 61 691 81 89.)

British and Eire Association of Vitreo-Retinal Surgeons (BEAVRS)

The next meeting of the British and Eire Association of Vitreo-Retinal Surgeons (BEAVRS) will be held at the Manor House Hotel, Morehampstead, Devon on 17-18 October 1996. Further details: Mrs Jill Gledhill, Torbay Hospital, Lawes Bridge, Torquay TQ2 7AA. (Tel: 01803 654825; Fax: 01803 655 011.)

2nd International and 4th European Congress on Ambulatory Surgery

The 2nd International and 4th European Congress on Ambulatory Surgery will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London on 15-18 April 1997. Further details: Congress Secretariat, Kite Communications, The Silk Mill House, 196 Huddersfield Road, Meltham, West Yorkshire HD7 3AP. (Tel: +44 1484 854575; Fax: +44 1484 854576.)

Correction

An authors' error occurred in the ordering of the authors in a letter to the editor published in the April issue of the *BJO* (1996;80:378). The correct order should be Francis P J, Hatchwell E, Morris R J, Manners R M.