

Professor Richard White 1926-2010

Richard was born on 6th November 1926. He graduated MB, BChir from Emmanuel College Cambridge in 1949. His first paediatric post was in Bath and he subsequently worked at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and The Evelina Hospital. It was at GOS that Richard began his interest in histology, first undertaking liver biopsies and then renal biopsies under general anaesthetic after having observed Hugh de Wardener perform renal biopsies in adults. From July 1960 to September 1962 Richard was a paediatrician at Mulago Hospital, Kampala where he continued with his renal interest, especially renal biopsy. He subsequently promoted renal biopsy under sedation and local anaesthetic and published his experience in *The Lancet*, *Archives of Disease in Childhood* and *Pediatric Nephrology*.

Richard was appointed as a Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics and Child Health University of Birmingham and Honorary Consultant Birmingham Children's Hospital in October 1965. He was conferred a personal chair in June 1986 and was awarded Emeritus Professor after his retirement.

Richard's academic interest was in the histology of paediatric renal disease – he was a co-author of publications with many of the giants of paediatric nephrology, a number of whom attended his festschrift following his retirement in December 1991. His histological expertise was acknowledged when he was asked to be a reviewer of renal biopsies as a member of the International Study of Kidney Disease in Children. He also contributed to the establishment of the Birmingham Reflux Study Group and published widely on urinary infections, vesico-ureteric reflux and reflux nephropathy. He published seminal works on histological change in children with loss of nephrons from renal scarring.

Richard was an enthusiastic promoter of paediatric nephrology and was one of the founding group of nephrologists who established the European Society for Paediatric Nephrology in 1967 and he later was one of the 'Dublin Eight' who formed the BAPN with the inaugural meeting held in 1973. Richard served as BAPN President from 1991 to 1994; he wrote a history of the first 30 years of the BAPN which is available on the [BAPN website](#). He was awarded the [James Spence Medal](#) by the British Paediatric Association (forerunner of the RCPCH) in 1995 in recognition of his contribution to paediatric nephrology.

Richard was an enthusiastic gardener and music lover throughout his life. His last publication was [Shostakovich versus the Central Committee: the power of music. Clinical Medicine, 2008; 8:405-409](#). He was working on his memoirs until the week before his death. His wife, Pat, pre-deceased him and he is survived by his two sons and three grandchildren.

Obituary courtesy of David Milford, Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist, Birmingham.