

# Arthur 'Jerry' Jarrett

## 1919 – 5th October 2002

**E**meritus Reader in Dermatological Histopathology at University College London (b Southsea 1919; q Birmingham 1943; DSc, FRCP(Ed), FRCPath), died from lymphoma on 5th October 2002

Arthur 'Jerry' Jarrett was born into a naval family. When his father retired from the Navy the family settled in the potteries where Jerry went to school, going on to qualify in medicine from Birmingham University in 1943. He served from 1944-1947 as Dermatologist to the RAMC, India Command, where he gained wide medical experience and a taste for the colonial life-style which became a facet of his personality. After the war he entered academic medicine and was appointed Reader in Dermatological Histopathology at UCH Medical School. He set up a strong research laboratory and began a series of collaborations including seminal work on melanocytes with George Szabo and Peter Medawar.

Jarrett's interests were very broad and he introduced many new areas of study in dermatological research, including fluorescence microscopy and enzyme histochemistry. Familiarity with fluorescence turned out to be useful in the study of porphyrins, an area of special expertise at UCHMS, and Jarrett was a co-author of the first description of the disease

Erythropoietic Protoporphyrria. Much of Jarrett's effort was focussed on Psoriasis and he established the 'rat tail' model for examining the effects of various agents on keratinisation. Together with Richard Spearman he described the action of retinoids on the epidermis and Jarrett's scientific work on the action of vitamin A on the skin was an important contribution to rational dermatology. Never one to be satisfied with the conventional view, Jarrett acquired a reputation for unorthodoxy. To some extent this was justified, partly because he was completely unable to use any apparatus or established methodology without some major modification.

He published over 100 scientific papers, many of them classics; and in addition was the author of several monographs and a textbook. Perhaps Jarrett's most enduring contribution is the much-quoted multi-volume work "The Physiology & Pathophysiology of the Skin" published by Academic Press which he edited and to which he contributed many sections.

He leaves his second wife, Lesley, and a son, Peter, by his first marriage.

**Patrick Riley**

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