

# Constance Marjorie Ridley 22/5/1926 - 28/10/00

**M**arjorie Ridley was born in Durham on 22nd May 1926 and educated at grammar schools in Scarborough and York before gaining a place at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University as the first Heron Allen scholar. Her medical education was continued at UCH with a further scholarship, where she completed her clinical training in 1950. She became a full-time NHS consultant dermatologist to the Whittington and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Royal Northern Hospitals. In her retirement she became an Honorary consultant dermatologist at St John's Dermatology Centre, St Thomas' Hospital where she helped to set up a new vulval clinic and she continued to attend this clinic up until her death on 28th October 2000 from primary peritoneal carcinoma.

Marjorie Ridley was an exceptional doctor whose pioneering clinical work and numerous publications on vulval diseases had a major impact on the management and improvement of women's health. In the 1960's she brought together the disciplines of gynaecology and dermatology by establishing the first multidisciplinary clinic at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. Marjorie was a very powerful role model and many young doctors from both home and abroad came to do attachments to this clinic where they were always received with both kindness and encouragement. Despite her great achievements she was an extremely modest woman and was always very generous in sharing her considerable expertise. She had impeccable integrity and deservedly gained International recognition for her work becoming President of the International Society for Study of Vulvovaginal Diseases of which she was a co-founder. She was also the first

Honorary Fellow of the British Society for the Study of Vulval Disease. In addition to her specialised interest she was a highly respected and competent general dermatologist and was President of the section of Dermatology at the Royal Society of Medicine in 1992.

Outside medicine she had many interests particularly in the arts and literature, gaining a Diploma in English

Literature but her greatest love was the Ballet that she followed with considerable passion. She was totally committed to her profession but always had time for her many good friends who will remember her for her great personal qualities of loyalty, kindness and entertaining sense of humour. Her enthusiastic spirit and pioneering work will continue on in all of us who had the great privilege to train and work with her.



Constance Marjorie Ridley

**Dr Sallie Neill**

Chertsey