

# Leslie Stankler 19th January 1931 – 6th May 2000

Leslie Stankler was born in Leeds where he studied, qualifying MB ChB in 1956. He was a captain in the RAMC and returned to Glasgow for postgraduate work in medicine. Once he developed an interest in Dermatology he was influenced by the staff at the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow and tutored in histopathology by Professor John Milne, of Glasgow University. Later, when he was appointed senior registrar at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, Dr Alan Lyell encouraged his originality. Thus when he was appointed consultant at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in 1968 he had an established reputation from his articles on the pathogenesis of inflammatory conditions particularly psoriasis. In Aberdeen he continued to investigate the factors which influence and inhibit the Koebner response, studies which were the basis of his successful MD thesis in 1978.

At all times his first concern was for his clinical work and he recognised that it can

take sufferers a long time to come to terms with their condition. He was ahead of his time in documenting the disabilities which psoriasis can bring, in writing a booklet freely distributed in the clinic and for clinical audit which included the financial cost of attending clinics.

Numerous medical students and young doctors studying for examinations were encouraged and many colleagues cheered by his wit. As illness took its toll he never complained. Where previously he had enjoyed golf, his enthusiasm was for gardening including the challenge of breeding cold sensitive camellias. There was also time to pursue photography and study music. However he made frequent visits to the medical library to learn everything possible about the treatment of heart failure. He wrote several reports stemming from his experience of drug side effects warning “the dangers of

polypharmacy become more significant when one is personally affected”. He also completed a fascinating monograph describing his experiences as a patient. “Struggles through a therapeutic jungle between scylla and charybdis”.

His marriage to Frances and family life had the greatest importance in his life but he was also sustained by his religion without ever parading his work. He leaves his wife, two daughters, one son and three grandchildren.



Leslie Stankler

**Dr Marion White**

Aberdeen