The Japanese Society for Medical Mycology,
Honorary Member

Prof. Emlyn Glyn Vaughan Evans

(University of Wales College of Medicine, UK)

(1941 – 2003)
Prof. Emlyn Glyn Vaughan Evans

Glyn Evans was Professor of Medical Mycology, the University of Wales College of Medicine, and Emeritus Professor, formerly Professor, of Medical Mycology, the University of Leeds.

Born in Ystalyfera, Glyn was educated at Ystalyfera Grammar School before entering the University College of Cardiff where he graduated in Botany in 1963. At this stage he had identified mycology as his area of interest. In 1965 he became a PhD student and research assistant of the late Professor Jimmy Gentles in Glasgow, refining his research interests into the medically important fungi. Glyn worked in the Glasgow laboratory on the epidemiology of dermatophyte infections. This occurred at a time when the Medical Research Council had identified this area of medicine as one that was in need of support and Glyn was amongst the first of the new generation of medical mycologists to grow from this initiative.

He later moved to Leeds University in 1970 as Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer in Medical Mycology and was appointed to the Chair in 1993. Recognising the need to combine service and academic aspects of this work he started a regional Reference Laboratory for Medical Mycology in 1982 and this formed the core of what subsequently became the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) Mycology Reference Laboratory in 1992 when it moved from Colindale to Leeds and Bristol. He was its Director between 1992 and 2000. He was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in 1992.

His skill as an organiser was well recognised and he was elected President of the British Society for Medical Mycology and the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology; he was made an honorary member of both societies in recognition of his services. He was chief editor of the Journal of Medical Mycology (formerly known as Sabouraudia), from 1987-1994 and an editorial board member of numerous national and international Journals. In 1976 he started a great tradition, the Leeds Mycology course, the training vehicle for many young scientists and clinicians. Glyn was well known overseas and worked to develop a wider interest in his subject area. He was the first convener of the European Confederation of Medical Mycology standardisation and endemic infection epidemiology working groups. He was made an Honorary Professor in the University of Beijing School of Medicine in 1999, but his overseas connections extended from Chandigarh to Buenos Aires.

Glyn had a clear Welsh voice that could be heard equally dominating a committee as singing a well known song, delivered with national fervour, but not always in tune.

He will also be remembered for the things that are seldom recorded, in particular his capacity to foster younger scientists particularly those from overseas. Many mycologists owe their early tutelage and guidance to Glyn who made them welcome in the Leeds laboratory and his home.

Glyn is survived by his wife Ros and two sons Alun, a doctor and Hywel, a lawyer. Ros and Glyn had recently retired from Leeds to Wales where he had started a new laboratory initiative together with the University of Wales. Aiming to reduce his work load he was soon as busy as ever organising clinical studies, chairing committees and supervising students.

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