

Lifetime Achievement Award

2013

Professor Charles A Marsden

Charles Marsden was born in Cambridge in March 1943. He went to London University, obtaining his BSc Zoology in 1966. Although he acquired a place at Durham University to study ecology, he changed tack after reading an article describing the Falck-Hillarp formaldehyde fluorescence method to visualise monoamine containing pathways in the brain and went to Southampton University in 1967 to study for an MSc in Biochemical Pharmacology. Charles stayed on at Southampton to do a PhD on the cellular localisation of monoamines in invertebrate brain which he obtained in 1969.



He then became Assistant Lecturer at the University of Bergen, Norway (1969-1972) working with Hans Guldberg, after which he returned to the UK, becoming a Research Fellow (MRC) at the Institute of Neurology, London working with Gerald Curzon.

In 1977 he read an article by Ralph Adams in Nature on measuring 5-HT release by a new method, voltammetry, and received funding from the MRC to go on a sabbatical to Adams' lab in Kansas and learn the technique. The result of this research visit was that Charles brought the electrochemical system for measuring monoamines back to the UK.

Charles was appointed as a Lecturer at The University of Nottingham on 1st January 1978. He was awarded a prestigious Wellcome Trust Senior Lectureship in August 1981 and became Reader in Neuropharmacology in 1983. He obtained his personal chair in Neuropharmacology in August 1986 and received a DSc from Southampton University in the same year. Charles became co-director of Institute of Neuroscience, with Peter Liddle in 2002 and together they set up an inclusive virtual research institute and established a newsletter to encourage research interaction, which has always been his style. Charles also helped a successful bid to establish the first small animal magnet at Nottingham. He has always had a proactive interest in training researchers and the interdisciplinary doctoral training scheme was another successful outcome of the Institute and reflects Charles' ethos.

In his time at Nottingham Charles supervised over 70 postgraduate students and over 30 post-doctoral research fellows worked with him. Many of these workers are now senior scientists in the UK and around the world.

The breadth of Charles' scientific interests within psychopharmacology is impressive, as is his ability to move into new areas of research. He was among the first persons in the UK to undertake fluorescence histochemistry to map neuronal pathways in the brain. He can claim to be the first person in this country to have used in vivo voltammetry, helping others to set up this method. He was a pioneer in the use of high performance liquid chromatography coupled with electrochemical detection for the measurement of monoamines in the brain and he combined this technique with in vivo microdialysis to measure monoamine release in the conscious animal. He has also been much involved with work on brain neuropeptides and cannabinoids. Crucially, he is someone who has long recognised that studies on behaviour, particularly animal models of psychiatric disorders, should be linked with neurochemical studies, preferably in the same animal. Many of his well over 300 published papers reflect this approach.

The commitment to psychopharmacology as a subject by Charles is demonstrated by the energy he has given to numerous societies. He has had a long-standing commitment to the British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP), being on Council for 13 years (1991- 2004), Membership Secretary (1995-96), and has held virtually every other officer post including Programme Secretary (1996-1998), President Elect (1998-2000), President (2000-2002), Past President (2002-2004) and Chair of the Governance Panel (2010-2013). Charles has also made a major sustained contribution to the Serotonin Club as a committee member and in his role as Vice-President (1992-1994) and President (2002-2004). In 2012 he was made an honorary member of this scientific society, now renamed the International Serotonin Research Society. Both the Serotonin Club and the BAP flourished under his watchful eye for detail combined with an ability to engage all the membership.

He was on the editorial board of *The British Journal of Pharmacology* (1980-1987), a member of Committee of the British Pharmacological Society (1995-1999) and as BPS Representative on UKLSC (2001 - present). He was awarded JR Vane Medal by the British Pharmacological Society in 2002 for his outstanding contribution to neuropharmacology and a Fellowship of the British Pharmacological Society in 2006. Charles has also served on the editorial board of numerous other journals including *Neuropharmacology*, *Psychopharmacology*, *Synapse* and *Neuroscience*.

Charles Marsden has played a key role in the development and continuation of psychopharmacology in the UK for well over 40 years and has pioneered approaches to this science which many people now take for granted.

Kevin C F Fone

A Richard Green