

## **Iain D. Campbell FRS**

**1941-2014**



Professor Iain Donald Campbell of Oxford University died on 5 March 2014 aged 72 after a long battle with multiple-myeloma bone cancer.

Iain Campbell was born on 24 April 1941 in Perth, Scotland, to Daniel and Catherine (nee Lauder) Campbell. His father was a railway worker and his mother a telephone operator. He was a pupil at Blackford Primary School and later attended the Perth Academy before going on to study physics at the University of St Andrews from 1959 to 1966. In 1967, after a short time spent at the University of Bradford, he arrived at the physical and theoretical chemistry laboratory at Oxford University, to work with Professor Sir Rex Richards on NMR spectroscopy. In 1971 he moved to the Department of Biochemistry where he spent the rest of his career. During his time there he was a researcher and teacher, taking brief sabbatical breaks at Heidelberg University in Germany and the University of California at San Diego.

He made major contributions to the development of NMR in the area of structural biology. Iain was internationally recognised as the leading figure in the application of NMR to the study of the structures and interactions of 'modular' proteins involved in cell adhesion and signalling processes. He pioneered the 'dissection' approach to large proteins, expressing and characterising single, double or triple domains and determining their structures and interactions using NMR and other biophysical methods. This work led to major advances in understanding of how modular proteins such as fibronectin, integrins, talin, focal adhesion kinase and paxillin assemble and interact. Prior to his work on modular proteins, Iain had

already built a formidable reputation through his pioneering NMR work on metabolic studies and his methodological NMR work on proteins.

Iain's extensive publications over the last 40 years have been highly cited (37 having received more than 100 citations) and he was a frequent plenary lecturer at international NMR and structural biology meetings. Iain's major contributions to the advancement of NMR extend far beyond his impressive research output; many of the students and postdoctoral associates that were privileged to learn their craft in his laboratory have gone on to establish their own successful research groups.

Iain Campbell was later an Emeritus Professor in the department of Biochemistry at Oxford University. He was made a Fellow of St. John's College 1987 and then an Emeritus Research Fellow in 2009. He was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1995 and was a member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation. His other achievements included attaining the Croonian Medal of the Royal Society and being awarded honorary degrees from the universities of Lund, Portsmouth and St Andrews. Professor Campbell retired in 2009 but continued to work at the biochemistry department until his death.

He met and married his wife Karin (nee Wehle) in 1967 during his time in Bradford. He is survived by his wife, three children (Louisa born 1968, Fiona born 1969, and Andrew born 1973) and six grandchildren.

An excellent appreciation of Professor Campbell is to be found on the Oxford University web site:

[www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/aspsite/whatsnew/Iain\\_Campbell\\_-\\_A\\_Personal\\_Recollection.pdf](http://www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/aspsite/whatsnew/Iain_Campbell_-_A_Personal_Recollection.pdf)