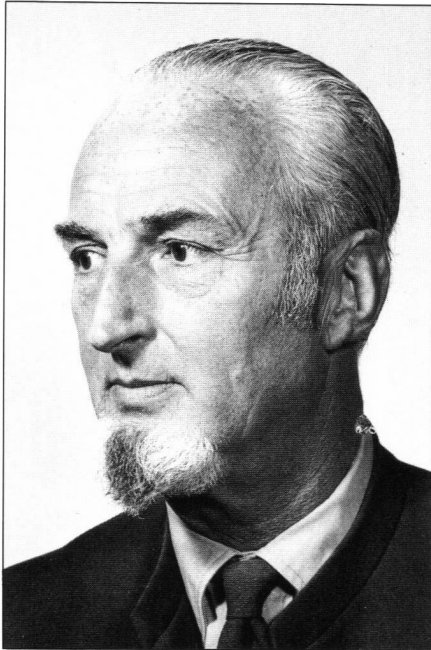


IN MEMORIAM:

Denis Naldrett White, M.A., M.D., F.A.C.P., F.R.C.P.C.

(1916-1993)



Denis Naldrett White was born in Bristol. He completed his premedical and medical education at Cambridge. This was followed by graduate training at the London Hospital with Russell Brain, Hospital for Sick Children, National Hospital for Nervous Diseases and the Institute of Psychiatry, University of London, where he completed a senior registrar post in 1948. That same year he was recruited by Dr. Ford Connell, Head of the Department of Medicine, to Queen's University.

Denis White pioneered the development of subspecialty neurology practice at Queen's. He established the first EEG laboratory in Eastern Ontario in Kingston and later a second in Ottawa. He took over the faculty course in physical diagnosis and managed it to such effect that it became one of the enduring strengths of Queen's Medical Faculty. The tenacity, dedication and sense of enquiry that he brought to his teaching made a lasting impact on a generation of medical graduates. For those interested in neurosciences, there were lively discussions at Denis White's home, with one of the first homemade stereophonic sound systems in the background. Those evenings provided an enticing entrée to a career in neurosciences for a series of Queen's graduates who remember Denis White with great affection.

Recruitment of additional neurologists to faculty in the early 1960s relieved Denis White of his previous all-consuming clinical and teaching responsibilities. He took that opportunity to pursue his long-standing interest in the application of principles of physics to medical technology. Initial studies in cerebral mid-line echography were followed by research into pulsatile

echoencephalography and an hypothesis of the cause of hydrocephalus. His work in the 1970s involved development of ultrasonic Doppler imaging and the innovation of colour coding determined by peak frequency of Doppler-shifted signals, the basis for contemporary angiography. As with many truly innovative scientists using ideas and technology from a variety of disciplines, he met periodic resistance to his projects from conventional research funding agencies who often considered his projects to fall outside their mandates. However, his dedication, meticulous attention to methodology and critical self-analysis provided convincing confirmation of many of his hypotheses and led to international recognition and leadership.

Denis White was nominated by the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology to be founding editor of *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology*, a journal which has become the leader in its field. He remained its editor-in-chief from 1973 to 1992. He was made editor emeritus one year ago when illness forced him to relinquish his role as editor-in-chief.

His publications included authorship or co-authorship of seven books, editorship of a further ten, numerous book chapters and over ninety scientific papers, many of which stand as seminal works in their field. He was an honorary member of the Japanese, Yugoslav, Mexican and World Societies for ultrasound in medicine and biology. The most prestigious of his numerous awards and honours was the Pioneer Award of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine.

Denis White was one of a small number of clinicians following the Second World War who established the foundation of contemporary neurology in Canada. He played a formative role in the creation of the Canadian Neurological Society. However, the multidisciplinary nature of his research career eventually kept him more in the company of engineers, specialists in acoustics and biologists, company he very much enjoyed. His inaugural editorial in *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology* emphasized the collaborative nature of research which would be necessary for a successful future for research in that field. He practised what he preached.

Denis White was a strong supporter of human rights long before that term became fashionable. That concern coupled with frequent skepticism about the motives of administrators often led to lively exchanges with various levels of bureaucracy.

Denis White enjoyed a closely knit family. His wife, Betty, worked with him for many years, providing great assistance in his editorial responsibilities. Those who follow Denis White, whether in his faculty, specialty or area of research will benefit for many years to come from the foundation he built and the standards he set.

Henry B. Dinsdale, M.D.