

In Memoriam

PROFESSOR JAMES T. BAXTER (1925-1985)

James Baxter, whose death at the age of 60 was announced on 11 November, was an Edinburgh man, educated at Trinity Academy and the then Royal Dick Veterinary College. His studies, begun in 1942, were interrupted by service in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946. He graduated MRCVS with a Silver Medal in Surgery in 1950. After a period in general practice he entered the Agricultural Ministry, first in England and then, in 1952, as a Veterinary Officer in Northern Ireland. During this time he was responsible for the research and diagnostic laboratories of parasitology and histopathology, and taught at Loughry Agricultural College. At that time he served as Chairman of the Northern Ireland Veterinary Officers' Association. In 1960 he was appointed to the Chair of Clinical Veterinary Practices at Trinity College, Dublin, and served with distinction on the University Council, and as the University's representative on the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. In 1963 he was appointed Director of the School of Veterinary Medicine and became a member of the Board and a Fellow of TCD. One of his outstanding contributions at TCD was that he initiated research programmes in several of the disciplines that formed the Department of Clinical Veterinary Practices, and fostered the development of postgraduate research, in addition to his primary responsibilities for undergraduate clinical teaching and service.

In 1970 he was appointed to the William Dick Chair of Veterinary Medicine at his old College, now the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, in the University of Edinburgh. He brought great energy and industry to the challenge of teaching veterinary medicine at a time of fundamental changes in the discipline in a new Faculty. He was able to expand the staff and physical resources of the Department so that improved clinical and research facilities were inaugurated. At the same time he played a full part and a number of important roles in the University and Faculty. He represented the University on the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Horserace Betting Levy Board. Among his other honours was the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Health. His career at Edinburgh culminated with his election in 1984 as Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

In 1980 he became Editor-in-Chief of 'Veterinary Research Communications', and since that time played an invaluable role in the critical assessment and subsequent improvement of manuscript submissions, particularly from the

developing countries.

He had a warm and friendly personality and a kind, yet realistic, appreciation of others. He was a devoted family man and a committed Christian, giving generously of his time and energies in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and most recently as an elder of Mayfield Church, Edinburgh.

The Editors of 'Veterinary Research Communications' and the Elsevier staff involved in its day-to-day running, would like to extend their deepest sympathies to Professor Baxter's wife and family at this time.

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