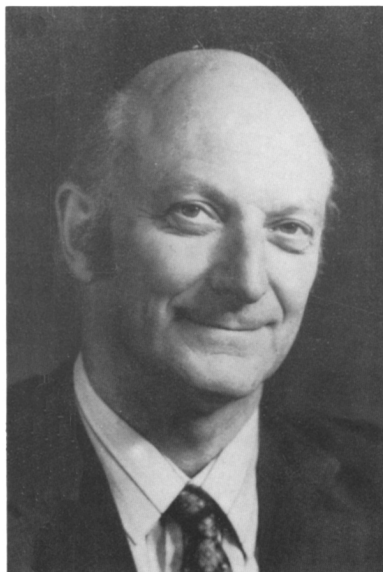


IN MEMORIAM

Philip R.J. Burch
15 April 1920 – 22 March 1987



Philip R.J. Burch, Emeritus Professor of Medical Physics at the University of Leeds, UK, died on 22 March 1987 after a short illness. He was 67 years old. Although nominally retired, he was working with undiminished vigour and enthusiasm on a wide range of problems. In fact, only a few months before he had participated to the Fifth International Congress on Twin Studies in Amsterdam, and nothing could let anyone think that he had only a few months left. His premature death is a great loss to the scientific community as well as a personal sorrow to his colleagues and friends.

Philip Burch was born on 15 April 1920 in Alconbury, England. After World War II, during which he served as a lieutenant in the Royal Navy Air Branch, he graduated in Natural Sciences at Emmanuel College in Cambridge and later (1952) received a Ph.D. from the University of Leeds with a thesis on the measurement of radioactivity in the human body. He received various appointments at the Medical Research Council in the University of Leeds Department of Medical Physics, until he retired, 1985, as Emeritus Professor of Medical Physics. He also served as Visiting Professor in a number of North-American Universities and was an active member of a number of associations and working groups.

His scientific interests were diversified and included the timing of gene action, and more generally aging processes, as well as twin research. In this latter field he produced valuable contributions in the area of twin biology. He contributed to this journal both as an author and as one of its most reliable referees. In fact, his work in twin research was so well received that he was in 1978 elected Vice President of the International Society for Twin Studies, a society of which he had previously been one of the Founding Members.

Philip Burch was also a pleasant and kind person. He was ready to put his brilliant mind, combined with humorous and gentleman-like manners, to service for anyone who would ask. In fact, his students and associates appreciated their great fortune in having known him both as a great scientist and as a friend. We will all miss him.

Luigi Gedda

From The Mendel Institute
Rome