

In memoriam: Alan Boulton, 1936–2010

Glen B. Baker, PhD, DSc; Andrew Holt, PhD; Darrell D. Mousseau, PhD

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We regret to inform you of the passing of Dr. Alan Boulton, a past president of the Canadian College of Neuro-psychopharmacology (CCNP), the International Society for Neurochemistry and the American Society for Neurochemistry and a former chief editor of the *Journal of Neurochemistry*, on Nov. 13, 2010, in Nanaimo, BC.

Alan received his PhD in 1962 from the University of Manchester and then served as an honorary research fellow in the Department of Physiology at the University of Birmingham until his relocation to Canada in 1968. Upon coming to Saskatoon, he worked for the Psychiatric Research Division for Saskatchewan Health, with a cross-appointment as a research associate with the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Saskatchewan; he formally joined the department as an associate professor in 1971. Alan quickly moved up through the ranks to full professor in the Department of Psychiatry. He was the Provincial Director of Psychiatric Research in Saskatchewan Health from 1972 to 1987, and from 1987 to 2000 was Director of the Neuropsychiatry Research Unit at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1976, Alan was awarded a Doctor of Science degree from the University of Manchester.

Alan's accomplishments were vast. He was a pioneer in research on trace amines such as 2-phenylethylamine, tyramine, octopamine and tryptamine and their involvement in the etiology and pharmacotherapy of psychiatric and neurological disorders. He was recognized as a world leader in the analysis of these amines in the central nervous system, and his work on monoamine oxidase inhibitors and their effects on levels of these molecules led him into research on neuroprotective/neurorescue agents. Several of these drugs ultimately set the foundation for a commercial venture, namely the biotechnology company *ALoiva* Biopharmaceuticals Inc. Given Alan's many years of



investigation of the trace amines, it is gratifying to see that there has been a dramatic resurgence of interest in these neurochemicals in the past decade with the discovery of the so-called trace amine-associated receptors.

His scientific contributions resulted in Alan being made an honorary professor at several universities and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; in 2002, he was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. He was the recipient of numerous other awards, including the Heinz Lehmann Award (in 1989), the highest research award bestowed by the CCNP.

During his distinguished career, Alan published 216 refereed papers and 62 book chapters and review articles, and edited or coedited 48 books. He supervised or cosupervised 21 graduate students and 8 postdoctoral fellows, many of whom have gone on to senior positions in academia, industry or government. In addition to being a prolific researcher, Alan gave yeoman service to the scientific community in general. He was a founding member of the World Federation of Biological Psychiatry as well as the CCNP. At various times in his career, Alan was president of the International Society for Neurochemistry, the American Society for Neurochemistry and the CCNP. He was on the editorial boards of numerous journals and served as chief editor of the *Journal of Neurochemistry* for 5 years and series coeditor of *Neuromethods* for 20 years. Despite his busy schedule, Alan still found time to give voluntary service to support local and provincial organizations for various sports. He will long be remembered by his many friends and colleagues for his unbounded enthusiasm and his dedication to the scientific community locally, nationally and internationally. Alan is survived by his wife, Anne, 3 of their children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.