

Professor Ivan David Alexander Johnston: 1929 - 2007

Professor Ivan Johnston was born and educated in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He graduated Queen's University Belfast and qualified M.B. (Bachelor of Medicine) and B.Ch. (Bachelor of Surgery) in 1953. He passed his FRCS (Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons) in England in 1959. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and was research associate at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA, during 1959-60. Returning to the United Kingdom, he had appointments in London, where he became senior lecturer to the Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital laying the foundations with Selwyn Taylor for the UK's leading endocrine surgical unit. When Andrew Lowdon, Professor of Surgery in Newcastle-upon-Tyne died suddenly in 1965, Ivan succeeded him in the Chair of Surgery, working at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle from 1966.

As professor he continued the integrated curriculum and the outward looking approach of his predecessor. In a very few years he established a dynamic department with research interests in metabolism, parenteral and enteral nutrition, and islet cell, parathyroid, and intestinal transplantation. Ivan became an examiner for the Royal College of Surgeons of England, serving on its council from 1974 to 1986. He was the first chairman of the Specialist Advisory Committee in General Surgery at a time when surgical training was undergoing a major overhaul.

His main interests were endocrine and gastrointestinal surgery, and surgical metabolism. His publications include *The Metabolic Basis of Surgical Care* (jointly) and many papers and chapters in books. He was a founder member and first honorary secretary/treasurer (1981-83), and second President (1984-86) of BAETS (British Association of Endocrine & Thyroid Surgeons). He served as President of the IAES from 1993 to 1995. On 29 December 2007, he died from bronchopneumonia following progressive Parkinson's disease accompanied by a failing eyesight, which blighted his final years.