Annotation not available.

A study quantified the amount of blood required to suppress HbS in patients with hemoglobin SS. Factors explored included serum chemistry values, erythropoietin, erythrocyte alloantibodies, and presence of Howell-Jolly bodies.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary N. Crawford, MD  
(Polly)  
1923–1997

Polly Crawford graduated from Vassar, earned her MD at the University of Pennsylvania, interned at Allentown Hospital, and performed a pediatric research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and a residency at the Philadelphia Donor Center.

She was instrumental in establishing micromethods for routing reference laboratory use. In 1973, she established, in her home, the Pearson C. Cummim Jr. Reference Laboratory in honor of her late husband. This laboratory was accredited as an AABB Reference Laboratory. She welcomed many interested laboratory staff and blood bank fellows to her home and taught them the intricacies of capillary testing. She was inventive, resourceful, caring, and a brilliant laboratorian.

Dr. Crawford had been associated with the American Red Cross Blood Services, Penn-Jersey Region, Philadelphia, for many years and served as a member of the Region’s Medical Advisory Committee and as a consultant to the Region’s Reference Laboratory. She was an original contributor to Immunohematology and served as a peer reviewer from 1984 to 1996.

She regularly attended and presented lectures and seminars in Philadelphia and throughout the country. Since 1958 she was active in the AABB, and in 1978 she received the prestigious Emily Cooley award.

As many of you know, despite a serious hearing deficiency, she was an avid bird watcher and enjoyed nature and traveling.

She will be deeply missed.

George W.G. Bird, MD,  
Dsc, PhD, MBBS, FRCPATH  
1916–1997

It is with deep regret that we record the death of George Bird. The field of blood transfusion medicine and immunohematology are diminished with his passing. He will be sadly missed on this side of the Atlantic, where he had many friends, as well as in England, his homeland.

George Bird graduated in Medicine in 1941. He served with the British Army Medical Corps in the Middle East for 3 years before transferring to the Base Transfusion Unit in Madras, India. In 1946, he joined the Indian Medical Service and in 1947 he founded its Blood Transfusion Service and served as Adviser in Blood Transfusion to the Indian Army. In 1963, he was awarded the title Padma Shri and in 1964 he received the Silver Jubilee Prize and Gold Medal from the Indian Government in recognition of his distinguished research.

He was appointed Director of the West Midlands Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, Birmingham, in November 1966. He inherited a newly built Regional Blood Transfusion Centre which, at that time, was the most up to date in the country and was situated, with advantage, close to the University of Birmingham. He was a progressive director, exemplified by his early introduction of computers into blood transfusion practice. His expertise in this field was recognized by his membership in the Council of Europe’s Select Committee on Automation and Quality Control in Blood Transfusion Laboratories and the Working Party on Automation and Data Processing of the International Society of Blood Transfusion.

The administrative duties of directorship did not deter the research that occupied him for over 40 years. He made the study of plant lectins his own and no one in the world knew more about this subject, which he developed to a high degree of sophistication. His lectin work led to the near universal use of Dolichos biflorus as the standard anti-A_1 reagent. Other lectins, notably from Arachis
hypogoea and the salvia spp., elucidated the riddle of polyagglutination. His research was not concerned solely with lectins and polyagglutination, as he contributed over 200 scientific papers on various other aspects of red cell serology, including hemoglobin variants, autoantibodies, human mosaicism, and chimerism. His research and service to transfusion medicine were recognized by the Grove Rasmusson Award of the AABB in 1983, the Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award of the AABB in 1989, and the Oliver Memorial Award of the British Blood Transfusion Society in 1981. He was a member of several learned societies and thousands of students benefited from his knowledge. George’s generosity of spirit, unassuming personality, warm sense of humor, and impressive intellect invited continual requests for advice, which was always cheerfully given.

His tenure as Director of the Birmingham Blood Transfusion Centre was completed with his retirement in 1981. However, until 1987, he continued to consult and remained active in many organizations. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, and four grandchildren. The family has established a trust in his memory, which will be used to benefit people working in blood transfusion medicine and science. Anyone wishing to donate should send a contribution to The George Bird Memorial Fund, Lloyds Bank plc, 21/22 High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1JD, England (Sort Code 30 98 91, Account Number 2103257).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion Symposium. The 16th Annual Symposium on Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion will be held September 18–19, 1997, at the National Institutes of Health. The symposium, cosponsored by the American Red Cross and Baxter Biotech, is free of charge, but registration is required. Contact: Karen M. Cipolone, NIH/CC/DTM, Bldg. 10, Rm. 1C711, 10 Center Drive MSC 1184, Bethesda, MD 20893-1184; or call (301) 496-8335 or fax to (301) 496-9990.

American Association of Blood Banks 50th Annual Meeting. The 50th annual meeting of the American Association of Blood Banks will be held in Denver, Colorado, October 18–22, 1997. The annual meeting has been completely reorganized to meet the needs of the attendees. For example, fees are being restructured to allow for one-, three-, or five-day participation; and typical workshops will be replaced by educational events including RAP and Special Interest Group sessions. For further information, contact the AABB Meeting Services Department, 8101 Glenbrook Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814-2749; or call (301) 215-6480, fax to (301) 907-6895, or e-mail: meeting@aabb.org

MSc in Transfusion and Transplantation Sciences. A modular course at the University of Bristol, England, consisting of formal lectures, tutorials, and laboratory experience, will prepare candidates to undertake a project and thesis to be submitted for the MSc in Transfusion and Transplantation Sciences awarded by the University of Bristol. The course will start in September/October 1998 and will be run by the Bristol Institute for Transfusion Sciences and the University of Bristol Division of Transplantation Sciences. It will be a one-year full-time course with a part-time option extending over three years. Contact: Professor B.A. Bradley, University of Bristol, Division of Transplantation Sciences, Professorial Unit, Southmead Health Services, Bristol BS10 5NB, UK.

VIIth Complement Genetics Workshop and Conference. The VIIth Complement Genetics Workshop and Conference will be held at the Institute of Legal Medicine, Johannes Gutenberg University, in Mainz, Germany, May 21–23, 1998. Topics for the scientific program include disease associations with complement genes and deficiencies, transgenic animal models for study of disease associations, evolution of complement genes, and population genetics. There will also be reference typing collaborative exercises to resolve nomenclature issues, and for the exchange and improvement of typing methodology. U.S.A. Contact: Joann Moulds, PhD, at (713) 500-6889, fax (713) 500-6810, or e-mail: moulds@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu

International Symposium. The 23rd International Symposium on Blood Transfusion will be held October 7–9, 1997 at the Red Cross Blood Bank Noord Nederland, Groningen, NL. The theme is “Risk Factors in Blood Transfusion.” Contact: Secretary, Red Cross Blood Bank Noord Nederland, PO Box 1191, 9701 BD Groningen, NL; phone: +31-50-3695555/3614026; fax: +31-50-3695556/3614759.