Professor of Medicine and Consultant Nephrologist North Staffordshire Hospital Centre

Geoffrey Michael Aber qualified as a doctor from Leeds University in 1952. When he was a medical student at Leeds, he was awarded his full colours in Rugby, Cricket and Tennis and he represented the Army in the Far East in cricket and tennis.

His career in medicine lasted for 41 years. After his army posting in the British Military Hospital in Singapore, he held training posts in the Brompton Hospital in London and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Much of his later training was in the Departments of Medicine and Experimental Pathology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the University of Birmingham, and his time there included the highly regarded appointment as a Welcome Foundation Senior Research Fellow. At Birmingham, he not only enhanced the diagnostic skills so essential to a clinician but he also developed scientific research interests mainly in renal disease. He studied biological mechanisms in kidney disease at cell and molecular level. Later his clinical research focused on the patho-physiology of renal disease in pregnancy. His work was to lead to his having a national and international reputation in these fields. In 1960 he spent a year doing research at McGill University in Canada.

He was awarded an MD with distinction by the University of Leeds, and then the less common degree for a doctor of a PhD from the University of Birmingham. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and over the years he was elected to membership of many prestigious scientific and medical societies.

In 1965 he was appointed Consultant Physician in Renal Medicine to the North Staffordshire Hospital Centre, and it was at Stoke that he spent the remainder of his working life. In building up and running this unit, which was responsible for dialysis, transplantation and the diagnosis
and treatment of all types of renal disease, he insisted on the highest standards in the care of patients.

As well as his clinical commitments he led a team of medical and science graduates carrying out a programme of scientific and clinical research. This research resulted in many publications in scientific journals and textbooks as well as presentations to national and international societies.

With his impressive record in clinical medicine and scientific research in 1982 he was appointed Professor of Renal Medicine and Head of the Department of Postgraduate Medicine of Keele University. In 1989 he became Dean of the School of Postgraduate Medicine at Keele.

Over the years Geoffrey served on a very large number of committees ranging from the Council of the Royal College of Physicians to the Executive Committee of the Renal Association, as well as numerous speciality and advisory committees of the West Midlands Regional Health Authority. His busy and fulfilling professional life came to an end in 1993 when he retired after 28 years at Stoke. His Department of Renal Medicine had trained staff and cared for thousands of patients during this time. He had also played a major role in the development of the North Staffordshire Medical Institute and the School of Postgraduate Medicine and Biological Sciences at Keele University. He had every reason to be proud of what he had achieved.

A few years after retiring Geoff and his wife Ellie moved to Harrogate where he was able to enjoy his golf, photography and his love of sports cars. In June of this year, Geoff and Ellie were due to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

He will be sadly missed, but always remembered as a doctor who brought great credit to his profession, a scientist whose research advanced knowledge and someone whose friendship everyone treasured.