



Professor Simon Maxwell  
Secretary  
European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (EACPT)

07 September 2016

Dear Professor Maxwell,

On behalf of the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) we are delighted to nominate Professor Sir Alasdair Breckenridge for the 2016 EACPT Lifetime Achievement Award in Clinical Pharmacology. Sir Alasdair has made a significant contribution to the discipline in terms of advancement of scientific knowledge and demonstrating the need for clinical pharmacology expertise in national and international healthcare decision-making.

*Research and clinical career*

Sir Alasdair's career in medicine began in St. Andrews University, graduating in 1961 with a prize for best medical student. He undertook clinical pharmacology training in London prior to his move to Liverpool in 1974. He did extensive research on warfarin leading to the award of the Paul Martini Prize in Clinical Pharmacology in 1974 for outstanding achievements and the 1975 Goulstonian lectureship of the Royal College of Physicians

On his move to Liverpool, he aimed to expand the research horizons of the discipline beyond the focus of the time (cardiovascular disease). He achieved this in establishing a unified department of pharmacology (basic and clinical) and producing a large number of important publications concerning the kinetics, metabolism, dynamics and drug interactions of oral contraceptive steroids. Under his direction, the department developed close links with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and started work on drugs used for tropical diseases (in particular malaria) and later on, the treatment of HIV, gaining an international reputation in these fields too. Sir Alasdair was also instrumental in developing and mentoring new talent, which is evidenced by the continuing strength of the Department of Pharmacology in Liverpool (recently awarded a BPS prize for *Putting UK Pharmacology on the Map*).

*National impact*

Sir Alasdair joined the Committee on Safety of Medicines in 1984 and became chair in 1999 until 2003. This was an independent body that advised the UK Licensing Authority on the quality, efficacy and safety of medicines. Sir Alasdair then served as the chair of the Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for the next ten years. MHRA is an executive agency of the UK Department of Health which is responsible for ensuring that medicines and medical devices are effective and safe. He has been closely involved with the



management of the National Health Service (NHS) at unit, regional and national levels including chairing the North West Regional Executive from 1995-1999.

He has been instrumental in the management of research on a national level, in particular the Medical Research Council (MRC) serving on the Council for four years and as a member of the Higher Education Funding Council of England. In addition to this, Sir Alasdair has been an active member of the British Pharmacological Society serving as Foreign Secretary and a member of Council. BPS awarded him the Lilly Prize for distinction in clinical pharmacology in 1993 and an Honorary Fellowship in 2002. This represents the most prestigious clinical pharmacology prize the Society awards, as well as the highest honour the Society bestows in the form of Honorary Fellowship.

*International impact*

Aside from Sir Alasdair's extensive research achievements, his impact at the international level has been significant in the form of serving on Steering Committees of the World Health Organisation, leadership roles within IUPHAR (International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology) and serving as an Assessor for the European Union.

Sir Alastair continues to be very active on a number of editorial boards and advisory bodies. He continues to be active in the Society, supporting our ongoing project to recognise the value of clinical pharmacology to the NHS and speaking at our training session for specialty registrars at *Pharmacology 2014*. His outstanding achievements have been recognised with the award of a Knight Bachelor in 2004 for services to medicine. We highly commend him to the EACPT for this prestigious award.

Best wishes,



Professor Munir Pirmohamed  
VP – Clinical



Professor David Webb  
President

Professor Stephen Hill  
President-Elect

