



VERNA WRIGHT 'BEST RESEARCH ORAL and POSTER PRESENTATION' by an Associate member

Verna Wright was the first President of the Society in 1978 before handing over to Philip Nichols.

Wright was educated at Bedford School and studied medicine at the University of Liverpool, then spent two years at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. After gaining his MD degree from Liverpool, Wright lectured at the University of Leeds for two years before becoming a research fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. In 1964 he returned to Leeds as a Consultant Physician and Senior Lecturer, where he helped establish a specialist rheumatology unit. In 1970 he was appointed Professor of Rheumatology in the Department of Medicine at Leeds, a post he held until his retirement in 1994.

His research was characterized by a multidisciplinary approach, including engineering and pharmacology. He was partly responsible for establishing the field of rehabilitation medicine as a speciality in its own right. Wright accurately predicted genetic links between different forms of arthritis prior to the development of laboratory tests which would later prove him correct.

Wright was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) and served as chairman of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, was a co-director of the Bioengineering Group for the study of Human Joints and President of the Creation Science Movement in England.

While at Leeds, Wright wrote or co-authored over 1000 scientific papers and 21 books. When faced with impending death, Wright said, "When you see the tape, you run faster". On his death, a Leeds hospital hung its flag at half-mast, indicating the respect with which he was regarded.

Wright married Esther Margaret Brown in 1952. They had five sons and four daughters.

Verna Wright MD, FRCP, (31 December 1928 – 31 January 1998) was a British evangelist, physician, professor of rheumatology at the University of Leeds and co-founder of United Beach Missions.

The Society for Research in Rehabilitation introduced these awards for the best research Oral and Poster presentation presented by an Associate member of the Society at their scientific meetings after his death.