



THE PHILIP NICHOLS LECTURE

Professor Philip Nichols (1924- 1979)

Philip Nichols was a founder member of the Society for Research in Rehabilitation which was established early 1978. He was a Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at Oxford University; he spent time in the Royal Air Force, advised the Chief Medical Officer and an advocate for health services research. Philip was also the Founder Editor of the Journal International Rehab Medicine - Disability and Rehabilitation.

This lecture takes place biennially and the current President of the Society has the honour of choosing the speaker.

Verna Wright and Philip Nichols had a vision for The Society for Research in Rehabilitation...

Split of rehabilitation from Rheumatology necessary, Philip Nichols and Verna Wright recognised it was a separate discipline "we were anxious that the rehabilitation side should develop but the best way to do that was to have a new society for Research in Rehabilitation."

..if we were going to get rehabilitation really going we needed a scientific society that looked wider than just medics and therefore it should be open to physiotherapists and other scientists who were interested¹

Professor Philip Nichols – Consultant Physician in Rehabilitation Medicine in 1979 was the second President of the Society. Professor Nichols was renowned for his professional ability, political awareness and energy. Sadly the Society was unable to benefit from his leadership for more than nine months due to his untimely death at the age of 52. SRR established a memorial lectureship in his name and the first Philip Nichols Lecture was given by Dr C Wynne-Parry in 1980. Emeritus Professor Garth Johnson, a Biomedical Engineer, will give the Philip Nichols lecture at today's 40th anniversary meeting, which is fitting as he himself was a founder member of the Society.

¹ Taken from Professor Anne Chamberlain's – Philip Nichols Lecture June 2003