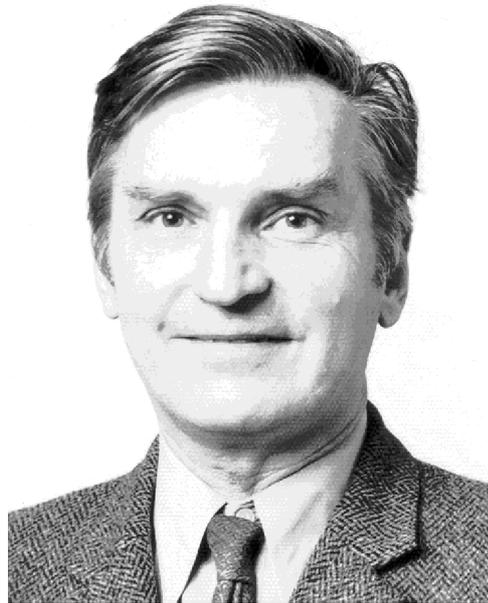


## Obituary

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# Stuart Roath



In preparing to write this appreciation of Stuart, the first thing I did was to look him up on Medline. What was impressive about the substantial listing that appeared was not so much the number of papers, as the spread of subjects covered. There was much on all aspects of white cells and haemorheology, but also on Raynaud's Phenomenon, haemostasis, bone marrow transplantation, tumours, haemolytic disease, magnetic cell separation and even an article on why students in Britain choose particular medical schools. It is perhaps fitting that one of the last articles was entitled 'Get some research under your belt'. All of this highlights one of the outstanding characteristics of Stuart – he was one of the few renaissance men in our field, not only able to talk widely about scientific and medical matters, but also easily able to enter into a detailed discussion of fine wine, the state of Welsh rugby or the relative merits of American and English literature.

He spent much of his later career in Southampton General Hospital as a Senior Lecturer in Haematology (1969–1994), following a period as Pilkington Leukaemia Research Fellow in Manchester and a brief appointment in Sheffield. However, at various times he also held posts in the USA, in Miami, New Jersey and New York. Although he officially retired in 1994, Stuart was far too active to stop there and instead took up a post as associate director of the Walt Disney Cancer Institute in Florida, and just before his death he had taken up a new project with Biodorn in Hollywood, Florida.

Although Stuart was a full time clinician, he always found time to continue a full and varied research programme, but what is mainly relevant here is his work concerned with haemorheology. He was involved in a variety of areas, looking at the effects of drugs on red cell deformability, haemorheology in Raynaud's Phenomenon and generally at factors affecting blood viscosity. However, his main area of publication was in the field of the leucocyte, covering such topics as labelling techniques, factors influencing chemotaxis, mechanical properties, and influence on haemorheology to name but a few. His organising ability was also important to haemorheology. He was for many years the chairman of the British Forum for Clinical Haemorheology and he organised the 7th European Congress on Clinical Haemorheology held in Southampton in 1991. One other gift to our field was his frequent attendance at our conferences where his wide knowledge and critical faculties always enlivened debate, frequently highlighting new ways of looking at any problem.

Stuart was a great raconteur and bon viveur and his company outside the conference hall was always fun. I remember a meeting some years ago in Lisbon, when he was already suffering significantly from claudication, when he insisted on taking a number of us on a very long walking tour where he guided us round the local hostelrys. On another occasion in Ankara, the small British contingent was complaining that it was impossible to get an alcoholic drink in the city. Stuart said we should leave it to him, and a short while later he turned up with carrier bags full of cans. My last trip with him was to Shanghai when he was accompanied by his wife Jo. This was very fortunate for me because against his advise I ate a considerable amount of the local food with the inevitable dire gastrointestinal result. Stuart immediately became my personal physician, and without his professional care and bag of tricks I would have had a very poor trip indeed. However, I could have done without his graphic stories of the cases of food poisoning that he had treated successfully, and otherwise, in the past.

He was a great sportsman playing squash till his claudication finally put an end to it. However, that did not stop him from playing a handy game of cricket and being a rugby referee. Indeed, his love for rugby (he was of course a Welshman) was such that he even found games to referee in Florida. In fact he was refereeing on the very day he died, which incidentally was 1 March – St. David's day!

Stuart was a very warm and welcoming person and this resulted in his having many friends around the world. They will miss him dearly and, for them, haemorheology meetings will never be quite the same again. Our thoughts go out to his wife Jo, and his family.

*Michael Rampling*