

## Introduction of President J. Richard Batchelor

T.E. Starzl

AS Dr Monaco has already shown, one of the joys in life is the introduction of colleagues who have reached a position of distinction and honor. J. Richard Batchelor is a London-born Englishman who moved to India twice, first as a child in arms with his missionary parents, and later as a 10-year-old expatriate during the bombing of Britain (Fig 1). He went to an American missionary school in Madras. Back in England after the war, he continued his education at Marlborough College in Wiltshire, and at Cambridge University. He has lived in London or its surroundings since 1952, and is now Chairman of Immunology at Hammersmith.

He trained as a physician and surgeon at the Guy's Hospital in the mid-1950s. After service in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he worked for 8 years with Professor Peter Gorer, the discoverer of the H-2 system, in studies of transplantation immunology. Then, Batchelor became Director of the McIndoe Memorial Research Unit in East Grinstead (Fig 2). Batchelor is that special kind of person (like our founding president, Peter Medawar) whose passion it was to relate laboratory investigation to the improved care of patients. Three of his most famous papers fostered hundreds or thousands of articles of follow-up work.<sup>1-3</sup> His papers focused on the use of tissue matching for kidney-donor selection,<sup>1</sup> and the possibility of achieving organ acceptance by mechanisms other than tolerance induction,<sup>2</sup> followed by many elegant studies of the mechanisms of this graft acceptance.<sup>3</sup> Everyone has a favorite article. The object of Batchelor's fondest affection is a masterpiece, published in *Lancet*, that described the influence of HLA matching on corneal graft rejection.<sup>4</sup>

His work in recent years has continued to be a beacon to those in the field. All the while, he has remained ageless.

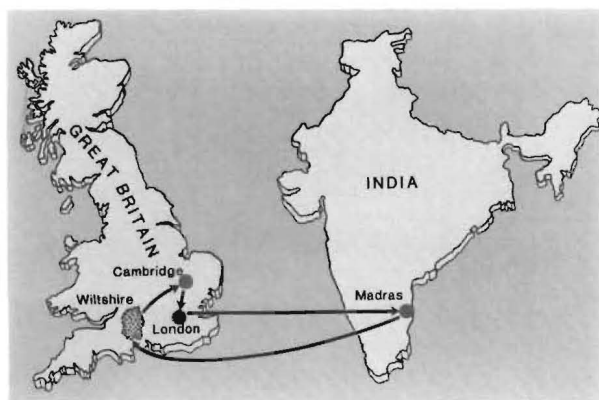


Fig 1.



Fig 2. J. Richard Batchelor

Gentility, integrity, and fairness are words which come to mind when describing Batchelor. He has quietly but effectively served the public, educational, scientific, and ethical interests of our growing, and now great, specialty. He was a founding member of the British Transplantation Society, and later its president. He was also a founding member of the Transplantation Society, a long-standing Councilor and secretary, and a part of its core fabric.

From the Department of Surgery, Division of Transplant Surgery, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Address reprint requests to T.E. Starzl, MD, PhD, Department of Surgery, Division of Transplant Surgery, University of Pittsburgh, 3601 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

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And then, 4 years ago, this organization revealed its collective wisdom by electing J. Richard Batchelor to be its president and leader. It was hard to imagine someone more deserving. It is a unique pleasure to present to you President J. Richard Batchelor, and to you, Richard, the presidential medal.

#### REFERENCES

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4. Batchelor JR, Casey TA, Gibbs DC, et al: Lancet 1:551, 1976