

## Vale Dr Ivan Gentry Jarrett

### 1 April 1915 – 3 November 2009



Ivan Jarrett was born in Tumby Bay, South Australia on 1 April 1915 and moved to Adelaide with his family around 1920. He was educated at Rose Park Primary School, and then went on to Norwood High School and Adelaide Boys High School for his secondary schooling. In 1933 he began his Science degree at the University of Adelaide. He undertook this part-time while working as a laboratory technician in the Histology Department at the University. On completion of his degree in 1939, he joined what was then CSIR, now CSIRO, at the Animal Nutrition Laboratories in Adelaide.

He retired in 1980 after 41 years with CSIRO, having spent the last five years of his career as a Chief Research Scientist and Assistant Chief of the Division of Human Nutrition in Adelaide. After his retirement, he was appointed an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he spent the next 15 years in the Gastroenterology and Gerontology Departments actively mentoring students, as well as developing and participating in different research programs.

Throughout his long scientific career, Dr Jarrett was concerned with the study of metabolism and nutrition, first in the ruminant and later in the human. He was the first to establish experimental diabetes in sheep and used this model to study aspects of diabetes and insulin action. He was also among the first to indicate many points of similarity between some of the metabolic pathways in ruminants and those characteristic of fasting or diabetes mellitus in the human.

Dr. Jarrett was able to make important observations on the dramatic changes in metabolism which take place when young ruminants change from milk feeding to rumination concurrently with the colonisation of the rumen. He contributed greatly to the understanding of the regulation of intermediary metabolism and he became an international expert in metabolic control mechanisms and in general endocrinology, particularly as it related to the adaptation to nutritional changes.

Dr. Jarrett was an active and highly sought after collaborator both in Adelaide and overseas. In 1972 he was awarded a Nuffield Fellowship and spent six months at the ARC Institute of Animal Physiology in Cambridge UK. In 1978 he was awarded a Professorial Fellowship from the Kroc Foundation for Medical Research and was appointed Adjunct Professor in the Department of Physiology and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University where he used his model of isolated hepatocytes to study diabetes mellitus in miniature pigs. In 1985 he was awarded a Fellowship from the Commonwealth Government Science and Industry Endowment Fund to visit cancer centres in the USA.

During his long career he contributed extensively to a number of scientific societies, particularly the Physiological Society of the UK, the Australian Biochemical Society, the Nutrition Society of Australia, the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the Endocrine Society of Australia of which he was a founding member, Treasurer and President. He was elected an Honorary Life Member of these last two societies.

Dr Jarrett received a Doctor of Science degree from the University of Adelaide in 1964. He was author and coauthor of over 150 published papers. He was generous with his time, mentoring and encouraging junior staff. He supervised several graduate students in the University of Adelaide and was instrumental in bringing a number of key researchers back to the Division from overseas.

In addition to his outstanding research career Dr. Jarrett shared his personal interests in art, music and literature with the community as a whole. He was President of the Friends of the Art Gallery of South Australia from 1975-77, he served on the South Australian Committee of Musica Viva from 1969-1993 and was Vice-President from 1981-83. He was the foundation Chairman for the Arts in Burnside in 1994 and was instrumental in the establishment of the Pepper Street Gallery. He worked tirelessly as Chairman of the Burnside Library Community Consultative Committee for over ten years from 1995 and was very proud of the library redevelopment to which he donated several pieces of art. In 2001 he was named Citizen of the Year by Burnside Council and he received a Centenary Medal in 2003. He was very loyal to his *alma mater* and served on the Senate of the University of Adelaide for many years. He helped to revitalize the Graduates Union which subsequently became the Alumni Association of which he was an honorary Fellow. From 1973-1979, he served on the council of the Torrens College of Advanced Education and was Chairman of the Planning Committee from 1977-1979.

He was predeceased by his wife Myra to whom he was married for 61 years. He is survived by his two sons, David and Richard, their wives Victoria and Diane, and four grandchildren Thomas, Benjamin, Mark and Lisa whose various accomplishments brought much joy and satisfaction.