

Malcolm Greaves has carried out important research work on the pathogenesis of various skin disorders. With his research associate, Jorgen Sondergaard, he was the first to produce direct evidence of involvement of prostaglandins in inflammatory disease in man using allergic contact eczema as a model, a skin perfusion technique and thin-layer chromatography. Subsequently, in 1975, he was able to set up at St John's Institute of Dermatology a gas chromatography-mass spectrometry facility which enormously enhanced the scope for studying pharmacologically active fatty acids on skin. These techniques yielded dividends in terms of convincing data on prostaglandins and leukotrienes in diseases as diverse as urticaria and psoriasis. When he retired in 1999, a *Festschrift* for him was organised at St Thomas's Hospital with important lectures by internationally important dermatologists. In his farewell address Malcolm Greaves said: "Finally, it is possible to lose your nerve in research. This has only happened to me once, but I have occasionally seen it in others..." He then went on to describe his experiment that suggested suppression of prostaglandin biosynthesis by glucocorticoids. The work was challenged and other workers said that this concept was heretical. As a result he had great difficulty getting the work published. In the end the *British Medical Journal* published it and his findings were found to be correct. "Feeling somewhat bruised from these encounters," he said modestly, "I never followed up the original observation...The lesson to be learned here is: once you have made observations (and repeatedly checked them for errors), you must believe in them, fight for them and do not lose your nerve, no matter how loudly eminent protagonists of a rival interpretation protest!"

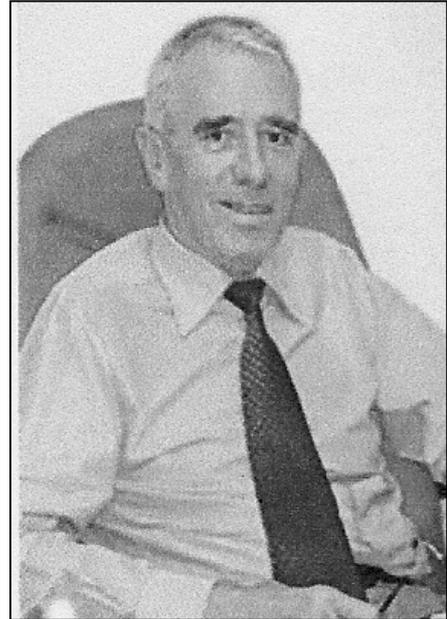
Malcolm Greaves has published more than 600 papers in peer reviewed medical journals, and in 1989 was the author of *Pharmacology of the Skin* (Vols 1 and 2). It is a matter of some pride to note that Epsom College has produced in Darrell Wilkinson (*vide supra*) and Malcolm Greaves two of the most important British dermatologists with internationally important reputations over the past fifty years, and that they were both elected President of the Section of Dermatology of the Royal Society of Medicine. In the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*, Malcolm Greaves recalls how "my wife and I narrowly escaped death due to the December 26<sup>th</sup> 2004 tsunami whilst we were vacationing in Dusit Laguna resort, Phuket." In November 2010, he was listed among the "*Top 10 British Doctors*" by *The Times* Newspaper.

**PROFESSOR MALCOLM WATSON GREAVES (born 1933).  
M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.D., Ph.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). - President of the European  
Society for Dermatological Research and Dean of the Institute of Dermatology, London.**

*"Dogma is very rapidly established in the research field, and jealously defended by those who established it in the first place."*

*Clinical and Experimental Dermatology (2000).*

Malcolm Watson Greaves (born 1933) [Epsom College 1947-1950] was the son of D. W. Greaves, an engineer, of Corby, Northamptonshire, and father of Professor Kim Greaves, F.R.C.P. [Epsom College 1980-1985], and Dr Suki Greaves [Epsom College 1987-1989]. He completed his medical training at Charing Cross Hospital, graduating M.B., B.S. in 1957. After this he was a graduate student and UK Medical Research Council Fellow for three years at University College, London, where he completed his Ph.D. (pharmacology) research. His dermatological training was at St John's Institute of Dermatology in London, and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, where he was subsequently appointed Reader in Dermatology, at the University of Newcastle. In 1957 he was appointed Clinical Professor and Head at St John's Institute of Dermatology, University of London, and subsequently Dean of the Institute. In retirement he is Emeritus Professor of Dermatology. In 1998, he was appointed Visiting Professor, Johns Hopkins University Department of Dermatology, Baltimore. Following retirement in 2000, he was appointed Clinical Professor of Dermatology at the University Kebangsaan Malaysia with the remit of establishing a specialist training course in Dermatology for Malaysia. In 2003 Malcolm Greaves relocated to Singapore, with his appointment as Clinical Professor, National University of Singapore, and he was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine of Singapore.



Malcolm Greaves has won numerous awards, including the Outstanding Achievement in Dermatology Award, European Academy of Dermatology (2006); Outstanding Achievement in Research, World Allergy Organisation (2007); the Dohi International Lectureship and Medal of the Japanese Dermatological Association (1980), and the American Skin Association Achievement Award (2010). In 1982 he was awarded the Royal Society of Medicine Foundation Visiting Professorship, USA, and in 1998, the Leo Ritter Von Zumbusch Medal and Lectureship in München, Germany. He was the John Thornton Ingram Lecturer, Royal College of Physicians (1989) and the Parkes Weber Lecturer, Royal College of Physicians (1991). In 1998, he was awarded the Sir Archibald Gray gold medal for Outstanding Contributions to Dermatology, by the British Association of Dermatologists.

In 1984 he was appointed President of the European Society for Dermatological Research, and in 1996, President of the Section of Dermatology of the Royal Society of Medicine. He is an International Honorary Member of the American Dermatological Association (1987), the Malaysian Dermatological Association (1995), and the Austrian Dermatological Association (2000). From 1980-1996 he was Chairman and a Trustee of the Scientific Committee, the Skin Disease Research Fund, and from 1982-1989, a Member of the Committee on Safety of Medicines, D.H.S.S.