

Professor Richard White

*Richard is to wound science as sin is to confession —
without one you have nothing to say in the other*



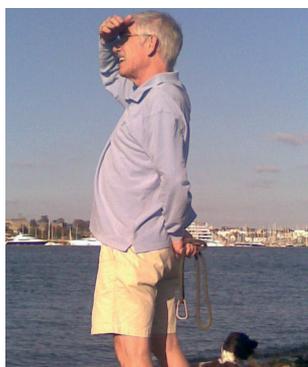
As a student at the end of the 1960s



Looking the part in the 1980s



The same winning smile in the 2010s



Richard will never stop (re)searching

Richard was born in Somerset and started his wound science journey at Saint Boniface College, Beacon Park, Plymouth where Richard developed a firm interest in chemistry and biology. He also loved sport and took part in cross-country running and played cricket and rugby. His love of rugby may explain why Richard never shied away from a scientific or academic ruck. He has never been *sotto voce* in expressing his displeasure of 'bad science' or of views that have not taken into account advances in contemporary thinking.

From 1972–81 Richard was a Research Officer at the MRC Experimental Pathology of the Skin, The Medical School, The University, Birmingham and a part-time lecturer in the department of biochemistry. Richard learnt his 'trade' from Dr. G.M. Gray, who sadly died in April 1980. After leaving the Skin Unit Richard went to work at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, Department of Dermatology (1981–87). It was during this period that Richard was awarded a PhD in Experimental Dermatology in 1985.

Richard then moved to Ruislip and went to work for Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals (ConvaTec) in Ickenham near Uxbridge, Middlesex where he was Associate Medical Director. It was during this time at ConvaTec that I got to know Richard. We would often meet at various events and it became clear that we shared distaste for that form of orthodoxy that refused to embrace new thinking. We have shared a platform on a number of occasions, co-authored a number of papers/chapters and have been mutually supportive of the quest to recognise and accept, where relevant, forms of evidence other than the randomised control trial (RCT).

In 1999, Richard left ConvaTec and moved from Watlington, Oxfordshire to Cornwall. Here he set up a consultancy business that includes medical writing, clinical trial design and a myriad of other activities. He is a regular

contributor to the literature and in 2007 he was appointed the UK's first Professor of Tissue Viability at the University of Worcester.

GAINING STRENGTH FROM SETBACKS

Richard has had a few bouts of ill health within the last 10 years but has conquered them with grim determination. In 2008, he underwent a quadruple bypass. As one may imagine this laid him low for while but following a period of convalescence he bounced back and after an intensive period of training he completed a sponsored charity cycle ride of 45 miles in 2009, where he raised £2,300 for HeartSWell South West, a charity which supports heart patients and their families. In 2014, Richard had a further health setback and was admitted to hospital with sepsis after undergoing a biopsy. With the backdrop of 150,000 cases of sepsis in the UK and a staggering 44,000 deaths each year Richard returned to work 5 months later.

Richard continues to live in Cornwall with Moira, his wife of 36 years. Moira loves the arts and has completed a BA (Hons) Degree in Ceramics (2012). Their two children Edward and Emily live and work abroad in Canada and Australia respectively.

Richard continues to follow rugby and cricket and has been an avid and long-term supporter of Plymouth Argyle football club and Somerset Cricket Club. He likes films, reading and music, especially jazz, a la John Coltrane and guitar blues. He is a keen Telegraph/Times cryptic crossword player and enjoys the challenge of general knowledge quizzes.

WHAT THE FUTURE WILL HOLD

Richard's stepping down as Scientific Editor of Wounds UK does not infer a complete departure from work and the world of wounds. Rather, it indicates an opportunity to focus his energy elsewhere. We wish him all the very best for the future.

WUK

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