

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS DEREK J. CRIPPS

Derek J. Cripps, professor emeritus of dermatology, passed away on Friday, January 23, 2009. Derek was born on September 17, 1928 in London, England. He completed undergraduate and medical studies at Kings College London and St. George's Hospital. After an internship in London and service in the British Navy as a lieutenant, he completed a residency in dermatology at the University of Michigan. He then returned to St. John's Hospital in London where he earned a doctorate (MD equivalent to American PhD) in porphyrin chemistry.

In 1965 Derek became an assistant professor of medicine in the dermatology division here at Wisconsin. He was promoted to associate professor in 1968 and became professor and chief of the division in 1972. He led the division until he retired in 2000. Subsequently, he was active as an emeritus professor for several more years and was involved in the transition of the division to a separate department of dermatology in 2002.

Derek's research was in the field of photobiology. He is known for his work in porphyria, other photodermatoses and prevention of skin cancer through the use of agents that block ultraviolet (UV) light. He was instrumental to the creation of the sun protection rating (SPF) system that is now used world wide. He also studied the use of UV light to treat a variety of skin diseases.

Derek's dedicated service to dermatology here at Wisconsin included almost 30 years as division chief. He served as president of the Wisconsin Dermatological Society and was an active member of many professional societies in the USA and Europe including the American Academy of Dermatology, the Society for Investigative Dermatology, the British Dermatological Association and the Royal Society of Medicine.

In 2006 the Derek J. Cripps endowment was established through the UW Foundation to support research within the dermatology department. When the fund reaches sufficient size, it will be used to support the work of a dermatology faculty member who will have the title of Derek J. Cripps Professor.

Derek was a true renaissance man: sage clinician, photobiology researcher, teacher, mentor, naval historian, wood worker, competitive swimmer, dog breeder, devoted husband/father/grandfather and of course British gentleman. In his day, he treated thousands of patients, trained scores of residents and published about 100 papers. He was the father of the SPF system, easily one of the most widely known achievements in the history of dermatology. Derek is survived by his wife, Eileen; four children, Andrew (Sue), Alasdair (Rachelle), Annabelle and Amanda (Philip); and five grandchildren—Daniel, Marissa, Abby, Sarah and Lili.

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