



Professor George C Morrison (1930-2015), CPhys, FInstP, FAPS, FEPS

Born on the 14th of May 1930, George Morrison graduated from the University of Glasgow with his first degree and then studied at the University of Chicago before moving to the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) in Chicago. His scientific reputation was built in the field of nuclear structure physics, in particular heavy-ion research and isobaric analogue states. In 1973 George moved back to the UK and took up a Chair of Nuclear Structure Physics at the University of Birmingham – appointed by Professor Bill Burcham.

At that time, the Birmingham Nuclear Physics group's research was centred on the Radial Ridge Cyclotron which was the only accelerator in the UK capable of producing beams of polarised deuterons and then later the only facility in the world with a polarised ³He beam. George's drive and enthusiasm led the Birmingham Nuclear Structure group to a leading position within Europe in the use of polarised beams for nuclear structure studies.

George also initiated a programme of heavy-ion research on the Variable Energy Cyclotron (VEC) at Harwell which became a significant component of the research of the Birmingham group over the subsequent years. This programme continued at the Daresbury Nuclear Structure Facility (NSF), the planning and construction of which started in 1974 with the Birmingham group providing components such as the polarised ion source and a large scattering chamber. The NSF was commissioned in the early 1980's.

Towards the end of the 1980's George directed his energy and enthusiasm into the leadership roles of first Deputy Dean and then in 1988 Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering. He followed this by Head of Physics and Space Research (later renamed Physics and Astronomy) in 1990. He served on the UK SERC Nuclear Physics Board, was chair of the SERC Nuclear Structure Committee and a member of NuPECC. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the European Physical Society and was Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Europhysics News (EPN). Post retirement in 1997, as Emeritus Professor, George continued in this latter role, as did his work as a Non-Executive Director of the Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust.

George was passionate about nuclear physics, a fierce debater and strong defender of the interests of students both as Head of the Nuclear Physics group and Head of Department. It is these characteristics that helped set the Birmingham Nuclear Physics group on its present course and for which colleagues both of the present and past generations will be eternally grateful. George was a great man, extremely proud of his achievements and endlessly proud of his family. George passed away after a period of extended illness, surrounded by his family, on Monday the 2nd of March 2015.

Condolences may be conveyed through the Birmingham Nuclear Physics group (M.Freer@bham.ac.uk)