

# Accepted Manuscript

In Memorium - Professor Robin AJ Eady, MB BS Lond(1967) MRCP(1970)  
FRCP(1982) FMedSci(2002) MBE(2014) DSc. (b.29 November 1940 d.2 August  
2017)

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1 With sadness we wish to report the death of Robin Eady, dermatologist, electron microscopist  
2 and researcher, Emeritus Professor within the St John's Institute of Dermatology at King's  
3 College London (UK) and former Honorary Consultant Dermatologist at the Guy's and St  
4 Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. In spite of a turbulent personal medical history, suffering from  
5 chronic renal failure, diagnosed while a medical student, haemodialysis for almost 25 years, and  
6 then successful renal transplantation for some 30 years, Robin contributed to dermatology  
7 immeasurably. Robin was first introduced to dermatology while in Seattle as one of the first to  
8 be hemodialyzed with the newly developed Scribner shunt. Under the tutelage of George  
9 Odland, Robin applied electron microscopy to the study of mast cell disease and albinism, before  
10 making a series of seminal contributions to epidermolysis bullosa (EB), adding to our  
11 understanding of the ultrastructure, biology, and clinical nature of this heterogeneous disease.  
12 His lab, in collaboration with others, was one of the first to apply monoclonal antibody technique  
13 to identify specific protein abnormalities in EB, setting the stage for molecular identification of  
14 causative mutations, and providing the means for accurate diagnosis and subclassification, both  
15 postnatally and prenatally. In 2004 he set up a national diagnostic laboratory, subsequently  
16 named after him, as part of a network of UK centers for the diagnosis and management of  
17 patients with EB. His laboratory then made similar contributions to our understanding of other  
18 genodermatoses.

19 Robin was not only an inspired clinician scientist but also a great teacher, with many scientists  
20 and fellows passing through his lab, going on to become prominent investigative dermatologists  
21 throughout the UK and the world.

22 The patient support organization, DeBRA (both UK and International), benefitted greatly from  
23 his expertise, serving as a trustee and establishing peer review of their grant applications.

24 Aside from his pioneering work in EB, Robin, as the world's longest-survivor of chronic  
25 hemodialysis, became a staunch patient advocate in renal medicine, receiving awards for his  
26 work in this area, including the Northwest Kidney Centers' annual Clyde Shields Distinguished  
27 Service Award for contributions to the welfare of kidney patients. Poignantly, he returned to the  
28 States to accept the Lasker Award on behalf of Professor Belding Scribner, who was too ill to  
29 attend the ceremony.

30 He was elected as a fellow of the prestigious Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci) in 2002  
31 and received Queen's Honors (MBE) in 2014 for services to dermatology and voluntary service  
32 to governance in the charitable sector.

33  
34 Robin passed away in August, 2017 as the result of complications of heart valve surgery, not  
35 renal disease, heroically choosing high risk surgery in hopes of improved quality of life. Robin  
36 will be remembered by all for his love of life, joy, personal courage, immense scientific insights,  
37 wonderful sense of humor, and friendship, inspiring many in their careers in dermatology and  
38 science. He is survived by his wife Ann, a son, and two grandchildren.

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT