Pulmonary Pathology Society
Lifetime Achievement Award, 2008

Bryan Corrin, MD, Professor of Pathology Emeritus, Royal Brompton Hospital and Imperial College School of Medicine, London

Andrew Gordon Nicholson, DM

Professor Bryan Corrin is the 2008 recipient of the Pulmonary Pathology Society Lifetime Achievement Award. A career spanning nearly 50 years has seen him become the leading pulmonary pathologist in the United Kingdom and one of the world’s foremost diagnostic opinion leaders in this field. His books, including the prize-winning Pathology of the Lungs, are used worldwide to assist pathologists of all levels of expertise in the art of diagnosis in this field.1

Having qualified from St Mary Hospital Medical School, London University, he started practicing histopathology at the University Department of Pathology in Manchester where encounters with various forms of pneumoconiosis led to his specialization and an MD thesis on occupational lung disease. He returned to London in 1964 where he worked under Professor Herbert Spencer at St Thomas Hospital Medical School, during which time he spent 4 months with Professor Averill A. Liebow at the University of California at San Diego. In 1979 he was appointed to the Chair of Thoracic Pathology at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Royal Brompton Hospital, London, which he held until his retirement in 1997, since when as Emeritus Professor he has continued to devote himself to the study of lung pathology.

Professor Corrin has published more than 150 scientific articles, mainly on lung pathology. With Bensch, Pariente, and Spencer he was the first to identify dense core granules in small cell carcinoma, so establishing the neuroendocrine nature of this tumor for the first time.2 He was also the first to recognize that the so-called intravascular bronchioloalveolar tumor was vascular rather than epithelial in nature, this by identifying Weibel-Palade bodies within the tumor cells.3 His several textbooks have aided all those interested in lung disease—enter the office of any pathologist, radiologist, internist, or surgeon working in this field and there will likely be a book bearing his name. Of these, Pathology of the Lungs, a book solely authored by him in its first edition, bears the mark of his unique and expansive knowledge in this field.1

Professor Corrin has lectured internationally on lung disease and continues to be in demand as a teacher across the globe. He still runs an annual course on lung pathology in London. In 1980 Professor Corrin founded the Pulmonary Pathology Club, which he continues to organize, providing a framework for pulmonary pathologists in northern Europe to exchange ideas and enhance their knowledge in this field.

In 2007, Professor Corrin was awarded the President’s medal by the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology for services to histopathology research and teaching. This further accolade by the Pulmonary Pathology Society is richly deserved by a man who has contributed so much to the knowledge of practicing pulmonary pathologists around the world.

References