

Biography – Barry Parsons

Barry studied at the University of Salford and gained his BSc (Hons) in Chemistry in 1968. His PhD study was carried out at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, Manchester. He gained his PhD in 1972.

He then pursued his interest in free radical research at the Max Planck Institute in Muelheim an der Ruhr, Germany where he investigated the reactions of free radicals with DNA components. In 1973, he took up a Lecturer post at Liverpool Polytechnic and, in 1974, he joined the North East Wales Institute (NEWI).

At NEWI, Barry was able to develop a traditional teaching and research career. He became the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Health and Medical Studies in 1991. During this period, he directed his research more to studies of the roles of free radicals in biology and medicine. As a consequence of the growing international interest in free radicals, a UK-based Society of Free Radical Research was formed in the mid-70s for which he became Treasurer in 1978.

In 1992, NEWI became a College of the University of Wales based in Wrexham.

Barry transferred to the new Institute and became a member of the Senior Management Team. In 1998, his increasing involvement in quality assurance enhancement culminated in his nomination as a Member of the first QAA Subject Benchmarking Committee. In this period, he was also involved centrally in the development of a European Free Radical Research Facility (FRRF) at the Paterson

Institute for Cancer Research- facilitated by the award of a major European grant.

A further award in 2003 brought about the re-location of the FRRF to the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils, Daresbury, Warrington. He is currently Chairman of the FRRF Steering Group.

Throughout Barry's research career, the emphasis has been on the roles of free radicals in biology and medicine. His expertise in radiation, an early interest, is still current however. He is an Expert Consultant to the International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) in which role he has helped to develop an international standard on the use of ionising radiation to sterilise tissue allografts.

Barry has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and has presented his work at over 70 conferences. His research work has been supported by a variety of sponsors including the pharmaceutical industry, the Science Research Councils, the European Commission and a range of UK Government Agencies.