

In Memoriam:  
Patrick F. D'Arcy  
1927-2001

“I was mistaken. I will correct it as quickly as possible.” With these words, Professor Patrick D'Arcy entered my life to become a role model, a mentor, and a most special friend.

Who was this man?

Patrick D'Arcy had an international reputation. He was an established expert in the area of drug interactions, reactions, and adverse events. He was the editor of international journals and the author of classic pharmacy texts. He was a professor and head (dean) of the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. He had received high honors from his profession and his country.

In 1981, I was the head of Information Services for Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals; Brandt Rowles was responsible for adverse reaction reporting. A regulatory agency requested information about an alleged disulfiram reaction with nitrofurantoin. However, a review of all available published and unpublished data revealed that there was no evidence of such an occurrence. There was information linking nitrofurazone with the reaction, but not nitrofurantoin. We were able to document where the misinformation on the nitrofurantoin disulfiram reaction originated and how a general statement in the primary literature was misapplied in secondary references. This research was published in a letter to the editor in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1982.

About the same time, Professor D'Arcy made reference to the nitrofurantoin disulfiram reaction in his column in *Pharmacy International*. We wrote to him and enclosed a copy of the *New England Journal of Medicine* article. In light of his stature and the existence of support (erroneous) of the reported reaction, we had little confidence that he would respond or, if he did, that it would be more than a politely worded brush-off. Instead, he quickly responded that he would correct the re-

cord as soon as possible. And so he did, in the next issue of *Pharmacy International*.

Who was this man?

Patrick D'Arcy was a writer and editor. He was the long-time editor of the column "Drug Interactions and Reactions Update" for *Drug Intelligence and Clinical Pharmacy* (now *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*). He was the editor of *Pharmacy International* and then the *International Pharmacy Journal*, journals that were of interest to pharmacy practitioners in whatever site or country they happened to work. He was also the editor of the scholarly *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*. He and his colleagues wrote classic pharmacy books, including *Iatrogenic Disease* and *A Manual of Adverse Drug Interactions*. In total, he authored or coauthored over 20 books and more than 350 papers. Patrick D'Arcy respected the written word, and he was willing, even eager, to help others in their attempts to write and edit. Pat also wrote *Laboratory on the Nile*, an account of the floating laboratory that Henry Wellcome established at the beginning of the twentieth century to do research on tropical diseases. This was the first book to be published in Haworth's *Pharmaceutical Heritage* series, a series that Mickey Smith and I were just beginning. His advice to this would-be author was to first settle on a title, and then the rest of the work would come naturally. This seemingly small piece of advice is still my starting point for every new project.

Who was this man?

Pat D'Arcy was a pharmacist and a teacher of pharmacists. He graduated from the University of London in 1952, finished his Ph.D. at the same institution in 1956, and was registered as a pharmacist in 1957. While he had two successful stints in the pharmaceutical industry, he was first and foremost a teacher. He was the founding dean of pharmacy at the University of Khartoum in the Sudan. In 1971, he joined Queen's University, Belfast, as professor and head of the pharmacy department. He also served as an external examiner for graduate and postgraduate degrees in almost every pharmacy school in the United Kingdom as well as schools in Africa and Asia. He was engaged, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, in the preparation of pharmacists to meet the needs of the society they would serve. He understood that societal needs for pharmacy services were different in different places, including developing countries, and worked with WHO and others to develop both the professionals and materials to meet those needs.

Who was this man?

Professor D'Arcy was an honored man. He was an elected Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland. Among other honors, he was presented with an honorary membership in the American Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's birthday honors in 1981. In 1984, he received the Harrison Memorial Medal of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain for a distinguished career in advancing the science and practice of pharmacy. In 1996, the University of Khartoum awarded him an honorary doctorate of science. And yet, he was a man not overly taken with himself or his reputation. He was willing to explore new things and to examine old ideas in new ways; his curiosity abounded.

Who was this man?

Pat had a sense of humor and displayed a wonderment of simple things. He enjoyed meeting pharmacists and educators wherever he came in contact with them. In 1987, he came to the United States to give a presentation at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy annual meeting in July in Charleston. The meeting was held in a new hotel which had not worked the bugs out of its operations, and every night, frequently multiple times, the fire alarm would go off, sending attendees into record high heat and humidity and unair-conditioned corridors. Pat was nonplussed and enjoyed meeting people in their sleep-deprived dishevelment as much as he did in the more formal meetings. He enjoyed a visit to Fort Sumter and the chance to learn about America's Civil War. He thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities to visit American restaurants decorated in a theme; something he thought unique to the country.

Who was this man?

Pat was a man of resilience. He grew up during World War II and entered the British Army in 1946 when he was 18. He told of guarding prisoners during the Nuremberg trials. He lost his wife Elizabeth, called "Queen" by all who knew and loved her, after a prolonged battle with cancer. He remarried and then lost his wife Margaret after a long illness. Pat was losing his sight to macular degeneration; reading and writing were increasingly difficult. Pat wrote in February 2000 to tell me that, as it was time for him to try something new, he was registered in a four-year course for a law degree. Several months ago he wrote that his studies were going well and that he was working with the Wellcome Foundation for a presentation based on *Laboratory on the Nile*.

Who was this man?

Pat did not judge people by their color, or religion, or ethnic origin. He loved his country and its traditions and values. He enjoyed sharing his world with others. During trips to Belfast it was normal to find pharmacists and educators from all over the world visiting Pat. A private excursion to the Mourne Mountains in County Down on one fall afternoon included visitors from Africa and Asia and a lone American. He encouraged me to apply for an Irish Allied Bank Visiting Professorship to work with him in Belfast for weeks at a time for several years. In those periods, he shared experiences in academic traditions such as a formal dinner in the feasting hall at Queen's. He encouraged and took the time to work on shared projects such as the comparisons of pharmacy education in the United States after the Millis Commission and in the United Kingdom after the Nuffield Report.

Who was this man?

Patrick F. D'Arcy was a son, husband, and father. He was a pharmacist, teacher, and administrator. He was an author, editor, and researcher. He was a traditional British man who loved his country and its traditions. He received honors from his profession and his country. He was an honorable man who kept trust with his values. He deeply believed in what he was about and invited others, through word and deed, to join him in making pharmacy and health care better.

Who was this man?

Patrick D'Arcy was born in Northampton, England, on November 13, 1927. He had two children, Anthony and Ann. He died in Glasgow, Scotland, on September 26, 2001, after attending the first annual Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences meeting at Strathclyde University, where he was the guest of honor.

Who was this man?

Patrick F. D'Arcy was a special friend, one who will be missed deeply and never forgotten.

This was the man.

*Dennis B. Worthen, Ph.D.  
Scholar  
Lloyd Library and Museum*