

**David Robert Jones**  
**1941-2010**



David Robert Jones, Killam Research Scholar and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia, died on the 19th of November, 2010 after a long battle with congenital emphysema.

Dave was born on January 28, 1941 in Bristol, England where he attended Bristol Cathedral School. He did his undergraduate training at the University of Southampton where he also began his PhD under the supervision of Graham Shelton. After two years there he followed Graham to the University of East Anglia, where he completed his PhD on “The cardiovascular adjustments to submergence in amphibians” in 1965. He then moved to Bristol University as a Lecturer. After three years at Bristol he was awarded tenure and promotion. Subsequently he was recruited to UBC and appointed to its Department of Zoology in 1969. Dave legally retired in 2006, but in actual fact he continued his research as a fully funded Professor Emeritus, and Killam University Professor.

Over his research career Dave worked on every class of vertebrate and a few invertebrates, too. These studies were as wide ranging as the species he worked on, although the primary emphasis was on diving, exercise and haemodynamics. During his career, Dave trained 17 MSc students, 16 PhD students (two of whom won the Cameron Award of the Canadian Society of Zoologists for the best PhD thesis submitted in their graduating year in Canada) and 16 Post-Doctoral Fellows. With these graduate students and with other colleagues, Dave published over 200 research papers and reviews in primary journals.

Along the way, Dave made major contributions in numerous sub-disciplines of his field. He was the first to identify and clearly define the role of nasal receptors, chemoreceptors and baroreceptors in diving responses. Indeed, he was the first to demonstrate the existence of baroreceptors in non-mammalian vertebrates, as well as the first to obtain recordings of heart rate and blood pressure during flight in birds. He pioneered the application of wave transmission theory to cardiovascular systems in non-mammalian vertebrates. He had a pioneering role in demonstrating the functions of the central nervous system (cognition) and the endocrine system (particularly the catecholamines) in simulated versus voluntary diving in birds and mammals. Dave was also amongst the first to apply NMR technology and micro-processor controlled real-time monitoring of physiological variables to diving studies. Most currently, his work was as varied as ever with one series of studies focused on energetics and thermoregulation in giant leatherback turtles, a study that contributed to our understanding of the dramatic population decline of this charismatic species. Another series focused on the role of the bulbous arteriosus in blood pressure regulation in all the world’s fishes.

As a result of his activities, Dave has received numerous awards and distinctions, several of which are of note, including: the Fry Medal from the Canadian Society of Zoologists; the Killam Research Prize; the Flavelle Medal of the Royal Society of Canada; the Scholander Lecture and the August Krogh Lecture of the Comparative Physiology Section of the American Physiological Society; Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada; and the Order of Canada.

*David Robert Jones*

Dave was equally well known for his love of the arts, his fascination with cathedrals (including his time as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, when he was working on a treatise on the English Cathedral), for his informal and more erudite side which included his wit and spontaneous one liners, his intellect and insight. Dave cited his family as his greatest achievement, and he is survived by his wife Valerie, daughters Melanie and Vivienne, and grandchildren Rowan, Hailey and Gareth.

A tribute to Dave and his contributions to our lives is being planned for January 28, 2011 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Anyone interested in attending should contact [milsom@zoology.ubc.ca](mailto:milsom@zoology.ubc.ca).

*Credits to the University of British Columbia*