

APPS Fellow

Professor Brian Deverall



Brian was Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Sydney from 1973 until his retirement in 2001. During this period he held many significant positions, including Head of the Departments of Plant Pathology and Agricultural Entomology (1973-1992) and Crop Sciences (1996-97), Pro-Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, (1983-85), Chairman, Committee for Graduate Studies, Academic Board, (1987-91), and Chairman of the CSIRO Committee of Review of Plant Pathology Research in Australia, (1982-83). Brian was President of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society (1987-89) and has been actively involved in the International Society for Plant Pathology for 14 years, 5 of those as Vice-President (1988-93); for more than 9 years he has served as Editor of the Newsletter.

Brian's research was divided between phytoalexins, the interactions between host plants and rust pathogens, and systemic induced resistance. In the late 1960s - early 1970s with students and colleagues at Imperial and Wye Colleges, Brian first demonstrated the involvement of a phytoalexin in host resistance, and their degradation in host susceptibility. With students and colleagues, he also contributed to knowledge on the role of major resistance genes in wheat infected with *Puccinia recondita* f. sp. *tritici*, and *P. graminis*, - leaf and stem rust pathogens. Brian's interest in inherent host defences, and the potential for utilising them in crop protection, led to investigations into systemic induced resistance (SIR) - from the mid-1970s onwards. Biochemical defences were always a key component of his studies. Brian is very well-recognised internationally.