

WiSET

2004 Inaugural Campbell Lecturer

Celebrating women in Science, Engineering and Technology in the University of Southampton

Monday April 26, 2004 at 3.30pm
Shackleton Lecture Theatre - Geography (Building 44/1041)
Tea available from 3pm
All Welcome

‘Brown Fat to Brains and a Few Beers!’

The lecture will be given by
Nancy Rothwell BSc PhD DSc



After struggling to choose between a degree in maths, art or biology, Nancy trained as a physiologist, and in her early research career investigated the mechanisms that regulate body weight and the disruptions that lead to obesity. She moved to Manchester in the late 80's where she now holds an MRC Research Professorship. There she heads a research group of over 25 PhD students and young scientists exploring the processes that lead to brain damage in diseases such as stroke, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and in brain trauma. This shift in her research interests has lead her to conclude that she no longer knows what to call herself. 'Am I a physiologist, neuroscientist, immunologist or endocrinologist?' she asks in her recent essay on turning points published in Nature last month (Nature 427, 683 19 February 2004). Nancy's innovative approach to science and her willingness to think outside the confines of her 'box' was recently marked by the prestigious Pfizer Prize for Innovative Science for 2003 which she won for her academic contribution to the field of neuroscience and for her skills as a natural communicator, particularly on the subject of animals in research.

Nancy's gift for finding simple ways of explaining complicated subjects has been recognised in many ways. Nancy has a strong interest in the public involvement in science and gives many lectures, including the She gave the 1998 Royal Institution Christmas lectures 'Staying alive: the body in balance' and has been a frequent broadcaster on such programmes as the 'Material World' where she discussed 'Creativity in Science' with Quentin Cooper. She is also a Trustee of NESTA (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts).

Other influential appointments include, membership of MRC Council and chairman of the MRC Neurosciences Board, council member of the Academy of Medical Sciences and trustee of Cancer Research UK. She has also been a driving force in

the newly formed Biosciences Federation which had its Parliamentary launch in 2003.

Nancy's view on life (see Nature article) is 'to follow your intuition and enthusiasm – even if it's wrong it will be more fun'.

Brief Biography of Ishbell Campbell (1906-1997)

She graduated from St. Andrew's with a BSc followed by a PhD and then went to Cornell as a Commonwealth fellow (we believe that she and Ruth Cohen were the first women to be Commonwealth fellows in the USA) before accepting a lectureship at Swanleigh Horticultural College and subsequently Bedford College. In 1938 she moved to what was then the University College of Southampton, as a lecturer. She later became a reader at the University of Southampton, as it then became in 1952. As such she was one of the founding academics of the University and (we believe) the only woman member of the academic staff in science at the time.

Her research into organic compounds of the Group V elements was largely carried out with her own hands. She was a highly skilled experimentalist with a talent for inducing intractable compounds to crystallise.

She was a committed teacher and the UoS organic teaching laboratories have been named in her memory.

Known as 'Ish', she was direct, with a lively interest in others and a 'unique ability to endear herself to people of all sorts, from young children to the highest in the land.'