

ERIC and the European Haematology Community lose a friend

An obituary note to the memory of **Terry J. Hamblin**

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Terence John Hamblin, former Consultant Haematologist, Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Professor of Immunohaematology, University of Southampton, and Honorary Consultant Haematologist at Kings College Hospitals, London (b 1943; q Bristol 1967; MB, ChB; DM. (Soton); FRCP; FRCPath; FMedSci) died on 8 January 2012.

Terry trained in medicine and haematology in Bristol and Poole before being appointed as the first haematologist in Bournemouth in 1974.

Over the next 29 years until his retirement in 2003, he provided the vision, drive and leadership that was responsible for the evolution of a small laboratory in an old Victorian hospital into a well staffed, well equipped department in a modern hospital providing laboratory, clinical and research facilities. As chairman of the local branch of the cancer charity, [Tenovus](#) and co-founder of the [Bournemouth Leukaemia Fund](#) he raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for local research. Throughout his career he remained a dedicated and compassionate clinician who always strove to offer the latest and best available treatment to his patients He was one of the first haematologists in the UK to establish services for plasmapheresis and peripheral blood autologous stem cell transplantation.

However, Terry was best known to a generation of clinicians and scientists, worldwide, for his incisive, often witty and always respectful comments at scientific meetings and his research into the biology, prognosis and management of chronic haematological malignancies, especially chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and myelodysplasia. He was an author of over 300 papers, review articles, editorials and chapters, and co-editor of [Leukemia Research](#) for 25 years.

Long and productive collaborations with Professors George and Freda Stevenson in Southampton resulted in co-authorship of seminal papers on the use of anti-idiotypic antibodies and DNA vaccines for the treatment of B cell tumours and in 1987, he was appointed Professor of Immunohaematology in Southampton University. In 1999, he was lead author of one of two of the most influential papers ever published on CLL showing that the mutational status of immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region genes predicted clinical outcome. He was a joint recipient of the Binet Rai Medal in 2003 for his contribution to CLL research.

Highlights of his work on MDS included the publication, in 1985, of a scoring system, widely known as the 'Bournemouth score' for predicting clinical outcome and membership of the MDS group which devised the International Prognostic Scoring System in 1997. In 2004 he was appointed honorary consultant at Kings College Hospital in London and continued to work on CLL and MDS.

Terry founded the [UK CLL Forum](#) in 2000 and was its chairman until 2006. He was also a founder member of the [UK MDS Forum](#) and derived much satisfaction from the significant contribution that both bodies have made to the education of clinicians, scientists and patients in the UK .

Outside medicine, he was a devoted family man and committed Baptist. The breadth and depth of his knowledge on many topics including literature, music, sport and theology, combined with an engaging personality and sparkling sense of humour ensured that he was always excellent company. He is survived by his wife and four children.