



Leslie Pyrah 1899-1995

Urology Surgeon

Leslie Pyrah was born in Leeds and graduated in medicine from Leeds in 1924. He became assistant surgeon at Leeds Infirmary and the Public Dispensary in 1934.

In addition to his general work he maintained an interest in surgical research and later urological research, combining basic science, in particular biochemistry, with clinical practice. In 1938 he was appointed Director of Surgical Research at Leeds University.

By 1950 he had decided to give up general surgery and concentrate on urology, particularly urological research. In 1956 he was appointed to the first Professorial Chair in Urological Surgery in Britain at Leeds University where he ran an extremely successful department which attracted very high quality researchers.

Urological trainees and scientists came from around the world to hear him speak. In 1956 the Medical Research Council established

a research unit in Leeds looking into the chemical pathology and causation of renal stone disease of which he was honorary director. He then set up the first renal dialysis unit in the UK with Dr Frank Parsons as its head. Further study into bladder malignancy was followed by pioneering work on renal dialysis and the creation of a successful artificial kidney. He established the first renal dialysis unit in the UK with Frank Parsons as its Head.

He received honorary appointments from, amongst others, the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow, the American Urological Association and from Oxford University.

In 1975 he was awarded the Honorary Gold Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in recognition of his immense surgical achievements.

