

MEMORIES OF BRITTON CHANCE AND THE BRITTON CHANCE AWARD

GIUSEPPE CICCÒ

*Hemorheology and Microcirculation Research Unit
Università “Aldo Moro”, Bari, Italy*

Accepted 21 May 2011

Britton Chance has been a person of superlative quality, a close friend, a great teacher and researcher, and a well-known and revered scientist in biochemistry.

Keywords: Britton Chance; ISOTT.

I first met Professor Britton Chance during the Annual Conference of the International Society on Oxygen Transport to Tissue (ISOTT) in Pittsburgh, PA, USA in 1995, when I became a member of ISOTT. Britton Chance has been the ISOTT President in 1975–1976 and organized the Annual Meeting in 1976 in Anaheim CA, USA. Since the beginning of the ISOTT in 1973, he regularly attended the ISOTT Annual Meetings.

ISOTT is an interdisciplinary scientific society comprising about 260 members worldwide (<http://www.isott.info/>). Its purpose is to further the understanding of all aspects of the processes involved in the transport of oxygen from the air to its ultimate consumption in the cells of various organs in the body. The annual meeting brings together scientists, engineers, clinicians and mathematicians in a unique international forum to exchange information and knowledge, update participants on latest developments and techniques, and to discuss controversial issues within the field of oxygen transport to tissue. Example of areas in which members have made highly significant contributions include electrode techniques, spectrophotometric methods, mathematical modeling of oxygen transport and the understanding of local regulation of oxygen supply to tissue and

fluorocarbons/blood substitutes. Founded in 1973 by Drs. Duane F. Bruley and Heim Bicher, the society has been the leading platform for the presentation of many of the technological and conceptual developments within the field, both at the meetings and in the proceedings of the society.

During the annual meetings of this society, Professor Britton Chance was always an active participant in all sessions. At 2002 ISOTT Meeting in Manchester, UK, I invited him to attend my ISOTT Meeting in Bari in 2004, when I became ISOTT President. He accepted my invitation at once.

At the 2003 ISOTT Meeting in Rochester, USA, the then President Dr. Paul Okunjeff and I suggested to the other Executive Committee members to dedicate a new award of this society to Professor Britton Chance. The Britton Chance Award was established for a young researcher (30 years old or younger on the date of the presentation of the Award) to honor Professor Britton Chance's longstanding commitment, interest and contributions to the science and engineering aspects of oxygen transport to tissue and to the society.

The first Britton Chance Award was presented in 2004 ISOTT Meeting in Bari, Italy to Dr. Derek Brown from Switzerland. At this meeting, Professor Chance was invited to have the Opening Lecture

with Chair, Professor Marco Ferrari, Univ. L'Aquila, Italy. Everyone who attended the meeting still remembers his informative lecture on "Oxygen extraction as a fast metabolic signal from tissue".

I remember an episode during this meeting that is apt to define the greatness of Professor Britton Chance both as man and as scientist. I met Professor Chance and let him know the name of the first winner of the Award, Dr. Derek Brown from Switzerland. I invited him to attend the Ceremony of the Award presentation during the gala dinner in the Tenuta Cocevola Hotel, Andria next to the Castel del Monte, Italy. He saw me and said, "We will see. I am not sure whether I will be there. In fact I am very busy during the period, as you know, I have many things to do. I'd like to avoid participating the Award Ceremony, because it is to celebrate the Award Winner not myself!"

The evening before the last congress day (with the gala dinner), after his active participation, Britton called me and he said, "I am leaving Italy to return to USA. Tomorrow early morning I will take

a flight to Rome and then to USA, please help me organize my leaving. You, as president, will present tomorrow night during the gala dinner the First Britton Chance Award Winner, Dr. Derek Brown, with my best wishes for a successful scientific and personal future."

On the last day of the ISOTT Bari Meeting, early in the morning at 6.00 a.m., Professor Chance returned to USA. Never had he participated in the Britton Chance Award Ceremony in the following years after Bari. This is to show the greatness and the simplicity of the soul of Britton Chance, who is a real-life example for all young and old people in science.

It has been very interesting and useful to attend the lectures by Britton Chance and to study his papers and a pleasure to have a conversation on science or even just a chat with him. His witty retorts and clever remarks are famous! Forever we will remember this past president of ISOTT, as a big-hearted teacher, scientist and friend and a precious colleague.

Britton Chance Award Winners of ISOTT

Year	Winner	Country	Meeting location	President
2004	Derek Brown	Switzerland	Bari, Italy	Giuseppe Cicco
2005	James Lee	USA	Brisbane, Australia	David Maguire
2006	Hanzhu Jin	China/USA	Louisville, USA	Kyung Kang
2007	Eric Mellon	USA	Uppsala, Sweden	Per Liss
2008	Jianting Wang	China/USA	Sapporo, Japan	Eiji Takahashi
2009	Jessica Spires	USA	Cleveland, USA	Joseph LaManna
2010	Ivo Trakovic	Switzerland	Ascona, Switzerland	Martin Wolf

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Gerolamo and Annamaria Cicco, medical students at the University of Bari, Italy, for their efforts in helping to prepare this manuscript.