

John M.H. Moll, BSc, DM, PhD, FRCP



Dr Moll was born in Leeds, UK, in 1939 and died in Sheffield in 2017. He educated at Leeds Grammar School. With a state scholarship he went to Leeds University, and after successes in the preclinical course (top of year prizes and a research based Hons BSc in anatomy) he was recommended for transfer to Oxford, where he qualified as BM BCh in 1962. In later years he proceeded to DM, the title of his doctorate being “A Family Study of Psoriatic Arthritis.” His early career included jobs at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and a spell as a ship’s doctor as Assistant Surgeon with the British Merchant Navy. He declined promotion to full Surgeon in order to pursue his career plan as a

hospital physician in his native Yorkshire. After further junior hospital appointments in Leeds and Oxford he and his family settled in Sheffield, where he became a consultant and honorary lecturer in rheumatology, and later head of the Sheffield Centre for Rheumatic Diseases.

Dr Moll was awarded the Frink-NASS Award 1987 and the inaugural Verna Wright Procida Prize in 2008 for his work in the spondyloarthritis field. John Moll’s other spheres of interest were medical journalism and pen drawing, and for the latter he was awarded the Sheffield University Centenary Design Prize in 1978. Within the former, he founded and edited 3 peer reviewed periodicals: *Journal of Orthopaedic Rheumatology*; *Rheumatology Review*; and the *Journal of Medical Biography*. In addition, he published 13 books, including 2 on medical history (The Heberden Society, 1987, and the Presidents of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1996).

His first book, co-authored with Verna Wright, was *Seronegative Polyarthritis*, published in 1976.

Moll’s appointments within the British medical community included Honorary Heberden Librarian of the British Society for Rheumatology, President of the Section of Rheumatology and Rehabilitation of the Royal Society of Medicine, and President of the Aesculapian Society, Sheffield.