



## **Professor Mike Edmunds 1941-2015**

We are sad to announce that Professor Mike Edmunds died on Tuesday 28 April after a short battle with cancer. Mike will be remembered as an internationally renowned hydrogeochemist.

He studied at the University of Liverpool before joining the Institute of Geological Sciences at London, later moving to Wallingford where he led the groundwater chemistry section of what became the British Geological Survey. On his retirement he joined the water team at Oxford University where he was well known by his students for the energy and passion he had for groundwater chemistry.

Mike contributed immensely to the development of our current understanding of groundwater processes both in the UK and overseas and his passing is a great loss to the science.

Mike's passion for sustainable and equitable management of groundwater led to dramatic and internationally-significant scientific discoveries that were recognised by the O.E. Meinzer Award (2009) as the first British recipient, the Whitaker Medal (1999), and the IAGC Vernadsky medal (2010). Seminal scientific advances on controls on water quality in regional aquifers, recharge over time and space, and the origin of mineral and thermal waters were published in over 150 scientific papers and books.

After an outstanding career spanning 35 years at the British Geological Survey (BGS), he joined Oxford University as Research Director of the Water Research Centre at the School of the Geography and the Environment, and a member of Christ Church. He continued to advance global groundwater science and management, notably in the UNESCO G-WADI programme, but also focused on developing and launching a novel and interdisciplinary MSc in Water Science, Policy and Management.

Mike has contributed to innovative, interdisciplinary water science including his significant inputs to new programmes on Improving Water Security for the Poor and Groundwater and Poverty. Both programmes reflect Mike's significant and enduring personal contributions to improving the lives of rural people in Africa and Asia not only through his world-leading science but also his personal commitment, including over a decade as a trustee of Wells for India, which has transformed the lives of thousands of poor people in Rajasthan.

As the co-ordinator of several EU FP projects Mike has been an inspiration to all the multinational teams who have had the privilege of working with him. Besides of his scientific activities Mike was found of classical music and was singing in the Church choir.

Mike was with G@GPS from the beginning and we are greatly shocked and saddened by his sudden death and our sympathies and thoughts are with Kathy, his four children and his six grandchildren.