

Wallace and Darwin Symposium

Biography: Adrian Gibbs

Adrian Gibbs lives in Canberra and enjoys an active retirement chasing balloons (with wife Pat), learning more biology, promoting science, gardening in a sustainable way, and enjoying grandparenthood.

His 39-year career at ANU (John Curtin School of Medical Research 1966-1970; Research School of Biological Sciences 1971-1999; School of Botany and Zoology 2000-2005) was busy and resulted in authorship/co-authorship of over 250 publications; mostly research papers but also books and networked publications, including an introductory book on plant virology that was translated into both Russian and Mandarin Chinese.

Throughout his career he has worked to understand the origins and evolution of viruses. This has involved understanding their identification, ecology and host interactions. He pioneered the storage and manipulation of virus data, first as co-founder of the Descriptions of Plant Viruses, then, using computers, founded the Virus Identification and Data Exchange (VIDE) database, which became the first component of the database of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTVdB).



He was an undergraduate at Imperial College London (1st Class Honours Botany 1956; Forbes Memorial Medallist) and Ph.D. (London) 1961. First he worked at the world's oldest agricultural research station, Rothamsted Experimental Station in the UK, with Fred Bawden as his mentor, then the JCSMR under Frank Fenner. Virus research was only broken by appropriately assisting in university and science administration, and advisory appointments to agencies such as the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, the Australian Genomic Information Centre (University of Sydney), CAB International.

Adrian Gibbs was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1993.”

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Born: February 15, 1934 in London, U.K. Nationality: Australian and British.
Family: wife Patricia Ann Gibbs; three adult sons and six grandchildren.

Education and professional appointments:
Secondary education: King's College, Taunton, Somerset, U.K.

Tertiary education: Imperial College of Science and Technology (Royal College of Science), University of London, U.K. 1956: B.Sc. 1st Class Hons. Botany, Associate of the Royal College of Science, Forbes Memorial Medallist; 1961 Ph.D. (London); 1993. Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science
 1956-66 Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, U.K.; Agricultural Research Council Scholar; Scientific Officer and Senior Scientific Officer.
 1966-70 John Curtin School of Medical Research, A.N.U.; Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow; Visiting Fellow 2000-2001.
 1970-71 Rothamsted Experimental Station; Principal Research Officer: Honorary Lecturer, Dept. of Virology, University of Birmingham
 1971-2001 Research School of Biological Sciences, A.N.U.; Senior Fellow and Professor (E1 - 1992; E2 - 1994); Visiting Fellow 1997-2000; 1972-75 Honorary Associate, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Sydney; 1976-86 Head of Virus Ecology Research Group, RSBS; 1990-7 Group Leader, Molecular Evolution & Systematics Group, RSBS; 1996-7 Head, Centre for Molecular Structure and Function, ANU; 2000-05 Visiting Fellow, School of Botany and Zoology, Faculty of Science, A.N.U.; 1981-84; 1992-93 Council of Australian National University; 1983-7 Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies; 1990-5, General Policy Committee, 1985-86, 1992-94; Committee on Public Affairs and Continuing Education; 1982-93; Scientific Advisory Committee of the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, 1987-88; Management Committee of the Centre for Molecular Structure and Function, 1990-92; 1994-98; Management Committee of the Cooperative Research Centre for Plant Science, 1991-95.

Committee and editorial work:

Co-editor of 'Journal of General Virology' (plant viruses), 1969-71; /of 'Intervirology' (plant viruses), 1973-85; /of 'Australasian Plant Pathology' (plant viruses), 1978-81; /of 'C.M.I./A.A.B. Descriptions of Plant Viruses', 1970-72; /of "Portraits of Viruses: A Review Series", Intervirology, 1979-88;
 International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses, Exec. Comm. member, 1966-78, 1991-3 (Life Member 1996); Chairman of the Data Subcommittee, 1991-3
 Programme Committee, Section on Virology of the IUMS, 1971-2001
 Scientific Advisory Board of 'Plant Pathology', 1981- 2000; /of founding Editorial Board of 'Virus Research', 1983-87; /of Editorial Advisory Board of 'Archives of Virology', 1985-2002; /of Editorial Advisory Board of the 'Review of Plant Pathology', 1987-96; /of Advisory Board of 'Indian Phytopathology', 1988-96; /of Editorial Advisory Board of the 'Encyclopaedia of Virology', 1990-93; /of the founding Editorial Board of 'Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution', 1991-2003; /of the founding Editorial Board of 'Molecular Plant Pathology On-Line, 1996-98
 Culture Committee of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, 1987-90
 Board of the Australian Genomic Information Centre, University of Sydney, 1991-94
 Crop Protection Programme Advisory Board of C.A.B. International, 1996-2000;
 Australian Plant Disease Database, Phase 2 Steering Committee. 2001-2003

Research Aims:

To understand the origins, evolution and ecological adaptations of viruses and their hosts by comparative molecular and ecological studies. Virus diagnosis.

Scientific publications:

Co-author or editor of 9 books (one translated into Russian and Chinese). Co-author of 6 networked publications. Author or co-author of 232 research papers or reviews.

Pastimes:

Chasing balloons; learning more science, gardening; growing old gracefully.

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