

## Obituary

GRAHAM VALENTINE GODDARD

(1938-1987)

Graham V. Goddard, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychology at the University of Otago, New Zealand, since 1981, drowned in a tramping accident in Arthurs Pass National Park, New Zealand, on January 15, 1987.

Graham Goddard was born in 1938, at Little Thurrock, England, and emigrated to Canada in 1954. His MA from the University of Saskatchewan in 1961, and his PhD from McGill University in 1963 marked the beginning of his long-lasting interest in the physiological basis for learning and memory.

From 1963 to 1969 he held positions of Assistant Professor and Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo, and a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Stanford University School of Medicine. From 1969, he held teaching and research appointments in both psychology and physiology at Dalhousie University, University College London, and the University of British Columbia. From 1973 he was Associate Professor of Physiology and Professor of Psychology at Dalhousie University, before coming to the University of Otago as Professor of Psychology in 1981.

In addition to chairing the Department of Psychology at the University of Otago, Graham Goddard served on a number of university committees, including the Academic Staffing Committee, the Standing Committee of Senate, and the Information Processing Committee. At a national level, he contributed to the New Zealand Epilepsy Association, the New Zealand Neurological Foundation and the Forward Planning Committee of the Medical Research Council of New Zealand, and in Canada, to committees of the Medical Research Council and the Canadian Psychological Association.

Graham Goddard was instrumental in the establishment of the Centre for Neuroscience at the University of Otago, and was appointed as its first Director. In 1982, he initiated the Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research, which was modelled on a similar conference held annually in Boulder, Colorado. The Australasian version is held each year in Queenstown, a skiing resort in the South

Island, and attracts neuroscientists from all over the world. He maintained very close contact with his research colleagues through regular attendance at many international conferences, a constant stream of correspondence, and through membership of the editorial boards of *Behavioral and Neural Biology*, *Experimental Neurology*, *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, and the *New Zealand Journal of Psychology*.

His best known contribution to neuroscience was his discovery of "kindling" which he first described in *Nature* in 1967. Kindling is the induction of patterns of brain activity and behaviour resembling epileptic seizures by repeated episodes of very weak electrical stimulation of specific areas of the brain. The kindling model is one of the best means of studying the causes of epileptiform activity and its modulation. A second main area of interest was in long-term potentiation, the occurrence of long-lasting changes in synaptic activity, typically in the hippocampus, as a result of high-frequency stimulation of afferent pathways. Long-term potentiation provides a possible answer to the puzzle of the neural basis for memory and contributes to a reductionist account of learning and memory in the spirit of Graham's mentor, D. O. Hebb.

Graham Goddard's eminence in scientific research was recognized by his election to Fellowships of the Canadian, American and New Zealand Psychological Associations, as well as the Royal Society of New Zealand. His research was supported by grants from a number of agencies in Canada, Britain, U.S.A., and New Zealand, and included a prestigious award from the Wellcome Foundation of Britain.

At the University of Otago, his contribution to the Department of Psychology, and to the University, was to consolidate psychology as a science. He emphasized the fundamental importance of scientific research, and excellence in teaching, and he recognized the value of the applications of psychology. He communicated to a wide range of professional and academic groups his enthusiasm, his aspirations for the discipline, and his devotion to the study of brain-behavior relations. His en-

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ergy, organisational skills, and ability to communicate, greatly facilitated major undertakings such as the Otago University Neuroscience Centre and the Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research. His personal warmth and diplomacy complemented the strength of his leadership of the Psychology Department. The benefit from his dedication to the growth and development of psychology and to the encouragement of the neurosciences will be long-lasting.

Graham's sense of adventure went beyond the scientific. He was a keen sailor, skier and tramper. He sailed his 24 foot GK24 yacht

"Graham Kracker" off the often treacherous coasts of Nova Scotia, and ventured beyond the Heads of Otago Harbour in his dependable "Tiercil". He was also an avid motor cyclist, and in 1975 rode from Canada to Peru on a 350 cc motorcycle with his wife Pat. He was devoted to his family and took great pride in the curiosity and achievements of his two-year-old son, Eric. It is perhaps fitting that he, Pat, and Eric were to spend their last few weeks together enjoying the sea and the mountains.

K. Geoffrey White,  
University of Otago.

### Acknowledgement

The name of the author of the obituary for Alan Crowther in the last issue of the journal was inadvertently omitted. The obituary was prepared by George K. Shouksmith of Massey University, Palmerston North.