



# Professor Norman Guthkelch and SRHSB

Roger Bayston  
Past President SRHSB

## Norman Guthkelch: his association with SRHSB:

Norman was born in UK in 1915. He did his medical training in Oxford UK before serving as an Army neurosurgeon during the war. He then returned to Manchester Children's Hospital to work with Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, the first professor of neurosurgery in UK. Guthkelch himself was appointed as the first professor of Paediatric Neurosurgery in UK soon afterwards.

The first meeting of SRHSB was held at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London, in 1957. Guthkelch was a founder member and his signature can be seen on the first SRHSB document.

He was elected President of SRHSB in 1958 and he hosted the second annual meeting of the Society in Manchester that year.

In 1957-8 the Holter valve became available and both Robert Zachary and Guthkelch were "shown what to do with it" by Peter Paul Rickham (of Rickham Reservoir fame).

In 1971 he hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting in Hull.

Guthkelch served as Publications Secretary of SRHSB 1971-5. He was also awarded the 9<sup>th</sup> Casey Holter Lectureship in 1982 for his lecture on "Evoked Potential Studies."



As he would be obliged to retire from the NHS when he reached the age of 65, much against his wishes, in the late 1970's he moved to Pittsburgh USA with his wife to carry on his work at the Children's Hospital.

He also held Visiting Professorships at Universities in Kentucky, Georgia, Groningen, New York, Iran, Pittsburgh and Harvard.

He later moved to Tucson Arizona and there he was invited to serve as a neurosurgeon and Research Professor at the University Hospital.

Norman Guthkelch retired in 1996 at the age of 81. However he still writes articles and serves as Expert Witness in legal cases. Three years ago he said "For a 97-year-old I'm fairly well preserved, but my memory is not what it once was."

Norman is now approaching his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

This year he has been elected Medical Scientist of the Year.

He is an Honorary Member of SRHSB, and a good friend of mine.

In memory of his wife, Margaret, he recently donated \$25,000 to SRHSB for studentships and similar purposes.

Recently Norman wrote to me: I'm within 3 months of my 100th birthday. I hope that like me you can echo my mentor Geoffrey Jefferson's last words "It has all been the greatest fun".

Best wishes,  
Norman