

Michael J. Berridge

By Stephen E Moss



Mike Berridge is an Emeritus Babraham Fellow at the Babraham Institute near Cambridge. In 1960 Mike obtained his BSc from University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, with first class honours, and then his PhD in 1965 from the University of Cambridge. Following his PhD Mike began to develop his interest in second messengers and cell signalling, in work that culminated in 1983 with the publication in *Nature* for which he is best known, and that described for the first time the role of IP3 as a calcium-mobilising agonist. This work led naturally to a lifelong interest in calcium, and its many roles in normal and diseased cells and tissues.

The importance of Mike's work on second messengers has been recognised by a number of prestigious international prizes, including the King Faisal International Prize in Science, The Louis Jeantet Prize in Medicine, the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award and many others. In 1984 Mike was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and in 1999 he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also been knighted by the Queen for 'service to science'.

For many years Mike has been a regular presence at ECS meetings, where his skills as a communicator and his passion for science provide a source of inspiration for the younger generation of calcium biologists. In recognition of his contribution to the ECS, the Keynote Lecture at ECS2008 and meetings thereafter is to be known as the Michael Berridge Lecture.