

## Prof. R. J. Pentreath BSc, PhD, DSc, CBiol., FIBiol., CRad.P, FSRP



**Richard John (Jan) Pentreath** is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Reading. Born in Porthenys (Mousehole), Cornwall, Jan gained his BSc at Queen Mary College, University of London (1965); his PhD, having won a Commonwealth scholarship, at the University of Auckland, New Zealand (1968); and his DSc from the University of London for his research on radioactivity in the marine environment (1980). A Chartered Biologist and a Chartered Radiological Protection Professional, he has been elected Fellow of the Institute of Biology and a Fellow of the Society of Radiological Protection. He has also received Honorary DSc degrees from the Universities of Hertfordshire, the West of England, and Plymouth, in recognition of his contribution to environmental sciences.

Jan began his post-doctoral research career in 1968 at the MAFF Fisheries Radiobiological Laboratory (FRL), Lowestoft, Suffolk, UK, studying the accumulation and metabolism of fission and neutron activation products by marine organisms, particularly fish. This led on to his involvement in many studies relating to the distribution and chemical behaviour of radionuclides discharged by Windscale (Sellafield), Dounreay, and other sources, both civil and military, particularly the transuranium nuclides. Such studies helped provide the basic scientific background for estimating human and biotic exposures relating to such sites, and with respect to evaluations made with regard to the deep-sea disposal of low-level packaged radioactive wastes. He was also involved in the studies to examine the feasibility of the sub-seabed disposal of high level radioactive wastes in the mid-oceanic tectonic plates. Having become Head of Research at FRL he then became Head of MAFF's Aquatic Environment Protection Division, and Deputy Director, when he was also Chairman of the UK's Marine Pollution Monitoring Management Group. He was appointed Chief Scientist, Director of Water Quality, and Head of Pollution Control of the National Rivers Authority when it was created in 1989 until it became one of the formative bodies of the Environment Agency in 1995. He was then the Environment Agency's Chief Scientist and Director of Environmental Strategy, a post he occupied for the first five years following the creation of the Agency. He then (2000) joined the research team at the University of Reading (Environmental Systems Science Centre, School of Physics and Mathematics) and returned to studies of radiation and the environment until retiring in 2006.

As an Honorary Professor at the University of East Anglia, he was Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Center for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment. He has also been a Visiting Professor to the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of London, and a Council Member of several UK scientific bodies. He has served on numerous IAEA and NEA working groups, and was one of the independent members of the UK Atomic Energy Authority's Board Assurance Committee on Safety, Health and the Environment for many years, and a non-executive Director of Research Sites Restoration Ltd that was responsible for the restoration of the Harwell and Winfrith sites up until 2015.

Having drafted ICRP 91, he became a member of the Main Commission in 2003 and was the founding Chairman of ICRP's Committee 5. He was made an Emeritus member of the Main Commission in 2015. He is also currently an Honorary Research Fellow at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and an Emeritus Research Fellow of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Suffolk.

Citations are those in Marquis *Who's Who in the World*; Marquis *Who's Who in the World of Science and Engineering*; Black's *Who's Who*; Debrett's *People of Today*; and the International Biographic Centre's Cambridge *Blue Book*.