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**Dr Gwyneth Dorothy Howells (1925-2009), former Editor in Chief of *Chemistry and Ecology***

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## OBITUARY

### **Dr Gwyneth Dorothy Howells (1925–2009), former Editor in Chief of *Chemistry and Ecology***



Gwyneth Dorothy Howells, former Editor of *Chemistry and Ecology*, has died after a long illness. She is survived by her husband and two sons.

Dr Howells was born in North Wales but spent most of her childhood in New Zealand. Having completed an MSc in Zoology at the University of New Zealand she was awarded a postgraduate scholarship that enabled her to study for her PhD, which she completed in 1953.

After working for a short time as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of London, in 1956 she moved to become a Senior Research Fellow at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in London, thus beginning a distinguished career spent at the interface of scientific research, environmental policy and the needs of industry.

During her career, which spanned over 40 years, Dr Howells' scientific interests were unusually wide-ranging, spanning from an early interest in nuclear medicine and radiation hazards to her later work on the effects of thermal pollution and acid rain on aquatic ecosystems. A series of prestigious assignments at universities (e.g. New York University, Institute of Environmental Medicine) and governmental agencies (e.g. Natural Environment Research Council) in both Britain and the US then followed. Dr Howells retired in 1986 from her post as Head of Biological Research at the Central Electricity Generating Board. She continued her work as a consultant for the energy supply industry in Britain and abroad, as well as for several international agencies including EPRI, WHO, FAO, UN GESAMP and the UN Environmental Programme. She advised on the environmental impact of large scale energy projects in Thailand and India, and was also an independent Research Associate in the Department of Zoology at the University of Cambridge.

Dr Howells was the author of more than fifty articles in peer-reviewed journals, the editor of three books, entitled *Restoring Acid Waters* (in collaboration with T.R.K. Dalziel; Elsevier 1992), *Water Quality for Freshwater Fish* (Gordon and Breach 1994), and *Acid Rain and Acid Waters* (Ellis Horwood, 1995), and animated the discussion of several papers that appeared in the journal *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B (Biological Sciences)*.

Dr Howells served as the Editor in Chief of *Chemistry and Ecology* (formerly *Chemistry in Ecology*) from 1987 to 2001, furnishing an invaluable scientific platform of knowledge for the wide communities of chemists and ecologists. During her sixteen years as the Editor in Chief of *Chemistry and Ecology*, she devoted a particular effort in opening the journal to scientists from developing countries, and provided an invaluable window for young scientists from all over the world. From 2001 until her death on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009, Dr Howells operated as the Advisory Editor of *Chemistry and Ecology*.

Dr Howells consistently managed the journal in a very professional manner, dedicating a huge amount of time in personally revising most of the manuscripts received, and addressing the journal to topics of the highest scientific interest.

We gathered from Gwyneth the legacy of acting as Editors of *Chemistry and Ecology* after a long period of professional collaboration and a sincere friendship that enriched our personal editorial experience and will always serve as a reminder of a memorable person and a distinguished colleague.

Roberto Danovaro  
Editor in Chief