



# David M Baguley (1961 - 2022)

BY KEVIN J MUNRO, MICHAEL A AKEROYD AND JUDITH C BIRD

Leader, teacher, mentor, scientist, clinician, patient advocate and man of faith: we will not see his like again.



The sudden and tragic death of David (Dave) Baguley has left a gap within the national and international audiology and hearing science community.

A Mancunian and lifelong supporter of Manchester City football club, he was awarded a BSc in psychology (1983), then a MSc in clinical audiology (1985), both from the University of Manchester. His first post was scientific officer in the MRC Institute of Hearing Research, Cardiff. One year later, he moved to the NHS, working as a clinical scientist in audiology at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Dave remained in Cambridge for over 30 years, transforming the small NHS audiology team into a comprehensive assessment and rehabilitative centre of excellence. He cared diligently for his patients, many of whom continue to enquire of him fondly.

While in Cambridge, he rose to consultant status and latterly head of audiology services and cochlear implants. During this time, he was awarded an MBA (distinction), a PhD on physiological mechanisms of tinnitus in vestibular schwannoma, and a diploma in pastoral theology. He built a formidable international reputation as a leading expert in tinnitus and hyperacusis, publishing prolifically on the subject and receiving referrals from all over the country. This was in no small part due to his empathic approach to his patients. His generosity of spirit and his enquiring mind made him the ideal mentor for a whole generation of young skull base surgeons training in Cambridge and leaves a lasting legacy in skull base centres across the world.

The respect afforded him amongst the ENT community meant he was a regular attendee at the otology section of the Royal Society of Medicine and the UK's leading ENT conference, the British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology. He contributed enormously to improvements in the care of patients with tinnitus and hyperacusis in departments across the UK. He also published

leading work on audiovestibular dysfunction in patients with vestibular schwannomas, and his support for such patients was often acknowledged by the British Acoustic Neuroma Association whose members found his insight into the challenges they face invaluable.

In 2016, Dave relocated to the University of Nottingham, where he took up the position of Professor of Hearing Sciences



With BAA 2017 President Sarah Vokes.

**“Dave was a passionate and gifted scientist, confident and sure in his research; for many of us, he was the go-to person for the latest research findings”**



Passing the baton of BSA Chairman to Kevin Munro, 2012.



As Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto with John Rutka, Professor of Otolaryngology, 2013.



In action at the BSHAA 2015 Congress.

within the School of Medicine's Division of Clinical Neuroscience investigating hearing loss and tinnitus, including associations with platinum-based chemotherapy. He was deputy lead of the Hearing Theme in the Nottingham NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and co-investigator on a current clinical trial on following-up and monitoring of new adult hearing aid users, funded by the Health Technology Assessment.

Dave was a passionate and gifted scientist, confident and sure in his research; for many of us, he was the go-to person for the latest research findings. He published around 200 scientific articles and two books, most recently *Living with Tinnitus and Hyperacusis*.

He was a five-time winner of the Marie and Jack Shapiro prize from the British Tinnitus Association and won the Norman Gamble Research Prize from the Royal Society of Medicine Section of Otology, the TS Littler Prize of the British Society of Audiology, and the

With the AIHHP Golden Lobe Award 2015 in recognition of outstanding services to audiology.

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International Award in Hearing of the American Academy of Audiology.

Dave was a voracious reader and an innovative thinker. He managed to bridge professional boundaries, connecting people with overlapping interests and linking ideas and clinical strategies from different specialisms. He was one of the few who comfortably straddled audiology, ENT and hearing science communities, exchanging insights and perspectives. His clinical background and ongoing clinical consultations, meant he developed a clear line of sight from discovery research through to patient benefit.

He was much in demand as a speaker on tinnitus and audiology courses around the world, with an eloquent, relaxed, and easy style – plus the ability to give a thoughtful response to questions from the floor. He was able to combine art and science, often incorporating literary references into his presentations.

Throughout his career, he worked with impressive efficiency and juggled commitments at local and national level. He invested time in supporting and promoting the profession. He served the British Society of Audiology as Chair, 2009-2011, and was editor of the *British Journal of Audiology* (now *International Journal of Audiology*) from 1995-2000. He helped establish the British Academy of Audiology, co-chairing the inaugural conference in Manchester, 2004. Dave joined the editorial board of what was then called *ENT News* in 2008. He worked tirelessly to source material of the highest academic calibre. He used his charm and wit to campaign fiercely so that audiology content would have equal coverage in the magazine, and was instrumental in inserting the word 'Audiology' into its title, becoming the current *ENT & Audiology News*. He was president of the British Tinnitus Association, 2015-2019.

Dave earned an international reputation as an audiologist and hearing scientist. As evidence, he played an important role in the





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formation of the international committee of the American Academy of Audiology, serving as co-chair for three years. In 2006, Dave won the prestigious American Academy of Audiology International Award for Hearing. His global influence on education of audiologists, and the patients they serve, was also evidenced by multiple clinically oriented articles in the *The Hearing Journal* and, in later years, online continuing education websites such as *AudiologyOnline*. Dave single-handedly inspired untold numbers of audiologists in the US to become involved in the assessment and management of persons with bothersome tinnitus and/or hyperacusis.

Occasionally perceived as self-important, Dave’s outstanding people skills, charm and wit quickly pushed that aside. He was always dependable, considerate and thoughtful. An early adopter of social media, he used it effectively to share his research findings. He commanded a large network of contacts and collaborators throughout the world and spanning many disciplines. He could comfortably put people at ease, with humility and care for others. He was calm, gentle, warm, insightful and supportive.

Dave could listen attentively with incredible insight. Many individuals acknowledge the support he has given when they were in difficult personal circumstances. He could recognise potential and found ways of harnessing talent, often when people had approached audiology in unconventional routes.



At the Tinnitus Research Initiative Conference, 2016.



With John Phillips at the third *ENT & Audiology News* ‘The Ear and Technology’ Study Day, 2019.



He was an enthusiastic mentor to many, willing to give advice and encouragement as junior staff explored career routes. He opened doors, creating opportunities and encouraged development. He was a kind and respectful critic and deeply respected.

At his core, Dave was a man of deep Christian faith. He was ordained a deacon in the Church of England in 2011 and priest the following year. Called to ministry alongside his clinical role, his correct title, although rarely used by those who knew him, was Reverend Professor. He was Associate Minister at St Martins, Sherwood in Nottingham. Outside of work he was a great cook, a lover of live music events, a hill walker, an avid reader, enjoyed 'shooting the breeze' with friends, spoke warmly and lovingly of his family, and indubitably possessed a remarkably eclectic collection of shirts.

He is survived by his wife Bridget, whom he married in 1989, and their two sons, Sam and Luke, and daughter, Naomi, all of whom he was immensely proud. The audiology and hearing science community remember each of them, and the extended family, at this time.

AUTHORS



**Prof Kevin J Munro**

Ewing Professor of Audiology; Head of Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness, University of Manchester; Honorary Consultant Clinical Scientist, Manchester University Hospital Foundation Trust, UK.



**Prof Michael A Akeroyd**

Professor of Hearing Sciences, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of Nottingham, UK.



**Judith Bird**

Clinical Scientist (audiology), Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK.



With Francesca McCabe and Heather McLaughlin at the ENT & Audiology News stand at AudiologyNOW! 2017, Indianapolis, USA.