

**“Professor Hilary Calvert, MB, BChir, MSc, MD, FRCP, FMedSci**

Hilary Calvert, trained in Medicine, Mathematics and Biochemistry, was recently appointed the Director of Anticancer Drug Discovery and at the UCL Cancer Institute, London.

His work on new drugs for treating cancer started in the Institute for Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden Hospital, London (1977-89) where he established the use of Carboplatin for the treatment of Ovarian Cancer and devised a formula which allowed the dose to be optimised for each individual patient. He also introduced a new family of drugs based on the vitamin, folic acid. The first of these is called Raltirexed and is in clinical use for Colon Cancer, and later work around the world led to the development of Pemetrexed, a drug used for treating Lung Cancer. Pemetrexed is also the only drug licensed for treating the asbestos-induced cancer, Mesothelioma. Between 1989 and 2009 he led a team at Newcastle University where the first of another new class of drugs, PARP Inhibitors, was developed. PARP Inhibitors are particularly useful in treating familial Breast and Ovarian Cancers.

In 2005 he was awarded the Pfizer Research Innovation Award – an award made annually within Europe but encompassing all areas of science – for his work on developing new anticancer drugs. In 2009 he was the recipient of the British Oncological Association / Pfizer Lifetime Achievement Award.”