

## **Dr Susan Coker 1954–2013**



A long-standing member of BPS, Dr Susan Coker, died on 29 June, after an illness and surgery which resulted in the development of septic shock. Despite intensive care Susan did not recover and died aged 59. Susan's career began at Strathclyde University with a BSc in Pharmacy (1975), an MSc in Industrial Pharmacology (1976) and a PhD in Cardiovascular Pharmacology (1980). Before starting her PhD, Susan spent a year working for Boots the Chemists and registered as a pharmacist (MRPharmS, 1977). She carried out postdoctoral work in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at Strathclyde University before moving to the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Liverpool where she was a lecturer (1984-1992) and then Senior Lecturer (1992-2004). Following retirement from teaching Susan returned to Strathclyde University to concentrate on her passion for research.

Susan will be remembered for her numerous original papers and reviews, in the fields of cardiac arrhythmias and contractility with particular expertise in arrhythmias induced by myocardial ischaemia/reperfusion and those caused by drugs associated with prolongation of the QT interval. Many of the PhD students who benefitted from her meticulous training, and caring and thorough supervision have continued their careers working in industry, often within drug safety. Thus Susan's lifelong interest in drugs, their safety and new development will be continued in the work of those she taught so well. Susan's contribution to undergraduate teaching and the running of the BSc in Pharmacology at the University of Liverpool will be remembered by her 100% devotion to all the jobs that she undertook.

As a colleague, I will remember her mentoring of new staff, her generosity with her knowledge and experience and always level headed approach to everything that a life in academia incurred. As a friend, I will remember her other passions, politics, anything botanical, tennis albeit from an armchair, Formula 1 racing and driving fast cars herself.

Dr Kathleen A Kane  
Retired from University of Strathclyde