



Dr. Regina M Botting, Research Scientist and Teacher

7 September 1932 – 21 May 2026

Renia, as she liked to be called, was born Regina Maria Mrozowska in Warsaw, Poland. Her family came to England in 1939 and spent most of the rest of World War II in Scotland where her father, an officer in the Polish army, was stationed. In 1945 they all settled in Fulham, south-west London. After attending the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Hammersmith, Renia studied for her undergraduate degree and PhD in Pharmacology at Chelsea Polytechnic (now part of University of London) and was awarded the Wellcome Pharmaceutical Fellowship twice, in 1953 and 1954. It was while at Chelsea that she met fellow pharmacologist, Jack Botting. They married in 1958 and had three children: Nina in 1959, Matthew in 1961, and Josephine in 1966.

In early 1966, she began teaching at the Ewell County Technical College as an assistant lecturer in Biology, remaining there for 20 years. A colleague commented that Renia was one of the key figures in establishing Ewell, now known as Nescot, as a leading college for part-time higher education. Then in 1986 she joined the William Harvey Research Institute as Information Scientist to work directly with Sir John Vane. In 1992, they published their co-edited book *Aspirin and Other Salicylates*.

Renia Botting was a well-respected research scientist and she and Jack were often invited to present research and contribute to panels at Pharmacology conferences around the world. This included giving lectures in Poland in her native language, a proud moment in her career.

After Jack died in 2012, Renia edited a collection of his articles written during his tenure at the Research Defence Society. This was published in 2015 as *Animals and Medicine The Contribution of Animal Experiments to the Control of Disease*.

In October 2019, Renia had a stroke which affected the right side of her body. However,

she continued to enjoy reading, using her iPad to keep in touch with friends and family (and watch Strictly Come Dancing!), and do as much as she could for herself while relying on carers to look after her. Renia died peacefully at home, where she was determined to stay. She is survived by her three children and five grandchildren.

There will be a memorial for Renia in London in the autumn. In the meantime, donations in her memory can be made to the Autism Research Institute or British Dyslexia Association.

