**Professor Edward Stewart Newlands**

*b.10 June 1942 d.13 Oct 2006  
BA BM BCh Oxon(1966) MRCP(1970) PhD Lond(1976) FRCP(1984)*

Professor Edward Stewart Newlands was an oncologist who improved understanding and treatment of gestational trophoblastic disease and developed temozolomide treatment for brain tumours. He made significant contributions in many areas of oncology, but perhaps his defining quality was the way he combined intellectual rigour with compassion in his work.

For most of his career, Ed Newlands was based at Charing Cross Hospital in London, but the impact of his work was felt internationally. He was the first to demonstrate the value of etoposide for treating testicular and ovarian germ cell cancers. This, in combination with cisplatin, has helped improve the cure rate for metastatic disease from less than 30% to over 90%, and is used throughout the world.

Ed Newlands also took part in many early stage clinical trials and had a deep-rooted interest in the science of new drugs. These advances involved important contributions from other researchers but, in his quiet but determined way, he led many of the principal ideas and brought about the delivery of the most useful outcomes. He pioneered the development and use of temozolomide for the most common type of brain cancer. This drug, when combined with radiotherapy, has significantly improved survival and quality of life for patients with gliomas, the first major advance in this disease for some 20 years.

Ed Newlands' other major interest was gestational trophoblastic disease, an illness he began treating when he joined Ken Bagshawe's oncology department at Charing Cross Hospital in the mid-1970s. He made a number of important innovations to improve understanding and treatment of this disease. The most notable of these contributions may have been the design and use of the EMA/CO regimen he developed with Bagshawe. This multi-drug chemotherapy regimen has proved the most effective treatment for patients with advanced disease and is now widely used internationally, resulting in many women's lives being saved. In the clinic, his compassion and sensitivity were particularly valuable in treating this condition, where the anxiety of a potentially life-threatening cancer is compounded by the grieving that comes with the loss of a pregnancy.

He had a healthy regard for the late sequelae of chemotherapeutic drugs and was always concerned to try and avoid treatments where possible. He was one of the pioneers of surveillance for stage I testicular and ovarian germ cell tumours. This approach is now widely used. He also played a key role in the development of anti-emetics to facilitate the administration of chemotherapy. His work combining ondansetron with dexamethasone in patients receiving cisplatin-based treatments revolutionised the acceptability of this highly emetic drug.

Ed Newlands' background equipped him with a strong didactic sense. It was a tendency that applied equally to his clinical work and his personal life, where the characteristics of a fine wine or the perfection of Mozart were among his interests. Outside work, Ed Newlands' love of Mozart was balanced by his loathing for Wagner. Although he believed in science and not in a particular God, he thoroughly enjoyed pre-1791 religious music and in particular masses. The structure of this music is perhaps reflected in the orderly way in which he conducted his science, clinical practice, and personal life.