

Introduction to the Presidential Address of Sir Roy Calne

1745

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LADIES and gentlemen, this special session is held every 2 years so that we can hear from our president. The Society is still young, convening now for only the 15th time. In some years, the presidential address has been preceded by a detailed introduction, and in others by none at all. It is easy to briefly introduce someone with the stark qualifications of Sir Roy Calne, whom I once described as "one of the greatest surgical scientists in the world today."¹ One should add "in history." This was written a dozen years ago.

A reassessment in 1992 was much the same. It read "Roy Calne was not a wilderness explorer, but no doubt he could have been. People like Calne . . . had been the ones to walk on the moon. Determination and courage were the first principles. These had to be combined with intelligence and skill. Nature created the magical alloy in Calne and then disguised it in a small and stocky frame as if the material had run out. As an afterthought, a mop of curly black hair was plastered on top of a powerful face . . . The template was [then] destroyed so that there could be no clones. This might be an item too hot to handle if it came in multiples."²

The diffused rays of the impending twilight that spare no one can give the illusion that the black hair is turning gray, and this may even be true. Except for such details, however, the verbal portrait drawn earlier with such affection and profound respect has withstood erosion throughout the 33 years I have known Roy York Calne, your president. I present to you Professor Calne, the father of chemotherapeutic immunosuppression whose name is etched forever on the heart, and more importantly the soul, of what we now call the field of transplantation.

REFERENCES

1. Starzl TE: *Ann Surg* 200:108, 1984
2. Starzl TE: In: *The Puzzle People: Memoirs of a Transplant Surgeon*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1992, p 190

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