

EDITORIAL



Robert Geoffrey Edwards
(1925-2013)



Kamini A Rao

A Homage to Professor Robert Edwards ... an obituary

Dr Robert Geoffrey Edwards, the name that resounds by itself, the pioneer of ART left us on 10th April 2013, in his sleep.

Words fall short of his achievements and appreciation, Sir Bob Edwards (as his dear ones used to call him) was born on 27 September 1925 at Batley, England. He served the British army during World War II and later completed his undergraduate in biology from University of Bangor. Sir Edwards started his study in human fertilization in 1960 at Circa and continued his work at Cambridge, laying the ground work for his future success. It was not before 1967 that the major breakthrough happened in the field of infertility when Bob met Dr Patrick Steptoe, a gynecologist based in Oldham. With both great men coming together and with the assistance of Jean Purdy, a dedicated nurse, came the new era in the field of infertility. As all great men do, Bob also had his share of struggles and failures in life for decades before achieving his final success.

Their joy knew no bounds when ultimately on 25th July 1978, Louise Brown, world's first IVF baby took her first breath, which marked the beginning of a new era providing hopes to millions of childless couples and women to have baby even after menopause. He also laid the founding stones for development of *in vitro* maturation technique and preimplantation genetic diagnosis. Bob is also credited with various academic activities, writing books, editing journals and public awareness speeches. His contribution was rewarded quite late in 2010 when he was awarded with Nobel Prize in Medicine. A year later in 2011, Dr Edward was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II 'for service to Human Reproductive Biology'.

As no one can go against the law of nature, Sir left us on 10th April 2013 after a prolonged illness. Bob Edwards will always survive in our heart and soul for his knowledge and vision that he delivered through his work and teachings.

Thank you, Dr Edwards. Thank you for all the beautiful children you have brought in to this world, thank you for all the hard work, for your persistence, for your ability to transcend criticism and bias, and for your incredible contributions to the advancement of science.

May your soul rest in peace!

Kamini A Rao
Editor-in-Chief