

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4855

Fildes, Joyce Eleanor

(1921 - 2013)

Born 20 May, 1921

Died 15 November, 2013

Occupation Microanalyst

Summary

Dr Joyce Fildes worked at the Australian National University for over thirty years, establishing the Microanalytical Service for all medical researchers in the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

Details

Joyce Fildes was educated at St George's Girls High School in Kogarah and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Sydney in 1942. She worked as a Research Assistant in the University's Organic Chemistry Department from 1942 to 1944, then as a microanalyst in the School of Chemistry till 1950.

She joined the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University in September 1950, initially in London, where the head of the department Professor Adrien Albert continued to work in laboratories at the Wellcome Research Institution. She undertook research at the University of Birmingham, gaining a Master of Science degree in 1953 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1956. She came to Canberra and was promoted to a Research Fellow position in late 1956 when the new laboratories in the John Curtin School were completed. She established the Microanalytical Service, servicing all medical researchers in the School. She became a Fellow in July 1961.

Her work involved research into the chemical action of drugs, such as anti-malaria drugs and anti-bacterial immunosuppressant drugs to help in surgical grafting.

In 1973, although the Microanalytical Service was transferred to the Research School of Chemistry, Joyce continued to work in the John Curtin School until her retirement in 1982. She provided an endowment to the Australian National University for the Joyce Fildes Honours Scholarship in Medical Science.

She was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2000 for services to the community, particularly through the Zonta Club of Canberra and the ACT Chapter of the Australian Federation of University Women.

Joyce Fildes passed away on 15 November 2013

Published resources

Book

The John Curtin School of Medical Research: The First Fifty Years, 1948-1998, Fenner, Frank and Curtis, David, 2001

Resource Section

Honours program, 2012,

<http://jcsmr.anu.edu.au/study/prospective-students/honours-program>

Magazine article

Retiring after 32 years work in medical chemistry, 1982

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg>

Archival resources

Australian National University Archives

[Joyce Fildes papers](#)

Author Details

Maggie Shapley

Created 3 January 2013

Last modified 22 March 2019