

**Dr. Betty Dowsett, 1920 – 2012 | consultant microbiologist who championed M.E.
by Tony Britton on June 21, 2012**

Tributes to the memory of Dr Betty Dowsett have begun to flood the internet after news spread today of her death a week ago on June 14. Dr Dowsett, who was aged 91, had been living in a nursing home in Cambridge for some years.

Dr Dowsett collaborated with the likes of Dr John Richardson and Dr Melvin Ramsay in their various studies into M.E. and, with Professor Leslie Findley, she helped set up the National ME Centre in Oldchurch, Essex. In latter years, she also worked with Jane Colby, executive director of the Young ME Sufferers Trust, on a groundbreaking study into M.E. as the cause of major long-term sickness absence from school. This achieved major coverage in the national press.

The young Betty Scott was born in Newport, Gwent, and studied medicine at Edinburgh University.

Simon Lawrence, chairman of the 25% Group of severe ME sufferers, had this to say about Dr Dowsett earlier today:

"She was one of the last remaining of the group of doctors from the Ramsay era who believed in ME as it really is, unlike today where we have all sorts of theories and scandalous activities that are truly harming people with ME. People are dying of ME and people are left paralysed by ME. Dr Betty Dowsett was someone who was truly upset about this and who worked day and night to help change the situation and even fought in the face of the establishment and other ME organisations that she felt were 'dumping down' ME.

In a world where we are so often left to suffer and be denigrated as ME sufferers, it was refreshing to meet someone who really did care and, at the same time, who never sought monetary gain from her services or some selfish recognition for doing what she felt was right."

Greg Crowhurst, whose wife Linda has had severe ME for many years, blogged:

"We have just heard the incredibly sad news that Dr Betty Dowsett, one of the very few doctors who knew that ME was a genuine neurological disease, who actively validated patients in a sea of psychiatric fatigue nonsense, a doctor who worked alongside Dr Melvin Ramsay, who knew the truth has died.

Betty Dowsett helped people, by protecting against the psychiatric untruth that has spread like wildfire throughout the UK since the 1980's, by accurately diagnosing them, by actively supporting them.

Not only did Betty help many people, for free, including Linda to get a proper Severe ME diagnosis, at a clinic she paid for herself, because the need was there, she also stayed in touch, supporting people in getting their benefits and providing ongoing medical advice.

Deeply committed to people with ME, Betty Dowsett was a genuinely good and honourable person who lived the doctor's oath to do no harm; much more than that she stood up for truth and in the process saved many lives – including Linda's.

Dr Betty Dowsett was a giant in the ME world; her loss is immeasurable and irreplaceable."

The funeral was held on Friday, June 29. The family have asked that, instead of sending flowers, people should make donations directly to the M.E. charity of their choice.