

Dr Tony Curtis

ICATS Founder and Principal Tutor

It is nice in these sombre times to start this with some good news. Congratulations to Chanel No 5, it is now 100 years young! The industry reports many hundreds of new fragrance launches around the world each year. It is truly remarkable and unique that this fragrance has maintained its pre-eminence for generations spanning both the 20th and 21st centuries. In uncertain times it is reassuring that something has timeless elegance.

In any news review it is impossible to not refer to the ongoing COVID-19 events. Living without smell [& taste] is one of the lectures reported in the *Health & Well Being* section of the IFRA-UK Olfaction anniversary book: *Living without Smell*, Professor Carl Philpott (2016). At that time the work was groundbreaking. In another section of Olfaction, work is reported on odour used in the diagnosis and identification of diseases. With COVID-19 one of the key diagnostic indicators is loss of smell and taste. The New Scientist runs a weekly feature The science of cooking written by Sam Wong. In the May 8th edition, he reports on approaches to help 'If your sense of smell has been affected by illness, you can still make food interesting using the basic tastes'. *Life Kitchen* (a not-for-profit cookery school) has published a cookbook *Taste & Flavour* specifically for people who have been affected by COVID-19. In Carl's IFRA Fragrance Forum presentation he reported 'Exposing

our olfactory receptors and brain to smells through [olfactory] training programmes is helping to accelerate recovery'. Such programmes are now being used as part of the efforts to help patients with 'long' COVID-19 smell loss symptoms.

In *Olfaction* the ability of mosquitos to detect and select their victims by odour was discussed. This might be thought to be just interesting. However, malaria is still a major killer. The World Health Organisation reports that 409,000 died from the disease in 2019. The May 1st Edition of the New Scientist reports good news with the development of a new vaccine. As with COVID-19 this is one element of a multi-dimensional approach with weapons such as impregnated mosquito nets having their place. I was drawn to this article by another featured article – the linking element was DDT. The May 2021 edition of *Chemistry World: Pesticide resistance – a growing problem* was discussed. Dr Ali Green in her excellent reports covers the increasing impact of environmental issues discussed at the January 2021 IFEAT Conference. The complexity of the issues is illustrated by the history of DDT. In today's environmental impact concerns; DDT is a classic POP (**P**ersistent **O**rganic **P**ollutant). Clearly this is bad news. In its time it was a life saver of many thousands of people and regarded as a wonder chemical.

The message from this excellent pesticide article by Bárbara Pinho is that a systems multi-disciplinary

approach is needed. It is nicely summarised by 'You've got to use all the tools that you can get your hands on'. Spraying and forgetting [a whole field] is no longer an option for many farmers. However, the UK wheat crop is reduced by 800,000 tons by a single weed; solutions are needed to feed the World. If the last 50 years has taught us anything it is that searching for single 'silver bullet' is not the way to proceed. The decreasing costs and increasing power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a new part of the arsenal. It is becoming possible to identify a single weed [as distinct from the crop plant] with AI and then to zap it by highly targeted pesticide application or by mechanical means. One attraction of the use of Roundup was the reduction in mechanical disturbance of the soil. Indiscriminate deep ploughing of fields is also an environmental problem. These new approaches may avoid the use of glyphosate where, in any case, increasing plant resistance is developing. This is definitely food for thought.

Another feature article in the May 1st vintage Edition of *New Scientist* was *The Wisdom of the Woods*. When Suzanne Simard discovered the wood wide web people were sceptical. Now she has found that trees are caring, sentient and wise. It is easy to forget that there is as much of a tree below ground as above. The ground is not solely the preserve of the tree roots but is also a rich eco-system interacting and communicating (e.g. fungus). This



is a new take on the old saying 'Can't see the wood from the trees!' A forest or a field is not a collection of individual plants. It is a giant complex eco-system of interconnecting elements. Just as with our evolving knowledge of the complexity of odour receptors, yet again, we are beginning to grasp that the whole is more than just the sum of the parts. Complex and important interactions are the order of the day.

The May 2021 Edition of *Chemistry World* reports on an approach to make supercritical carbon dioxide more affordable for new product development and start-up situations. This is yet another important development. From field to plate, from flower to shower our industry environment has never been so

turbulent. MBA and business studies texts observe that there are three types of organisations:

- Those who wonder what happened [lost & gone!]
- Those who wonder what happened [losing, observing but taking no action, going!]
- Those who make things happen [thriving, observing and taking action]

New product ideas and business developments come from monitoring the environment, making sense of the signals and taking appropriate action. This has always been the case. However, where time scale might have been years, now it may be months. AI may be coming to a farm near you faster than you might have expected!



ICATS-SCS-obituary notice Anthony (Tony) Hunting (1933 – 2021)

Anthony (Tony) Hunting amassed some sixty years of experience, both in England and the United States, in developing, formulating, manufacturing and marketing raw materials for the cosmetics and toiletries industries and in writing and publishing books on the function of these materials in cosmetics, toiletries and perfumes. He was a long-term member of the Society of Cosmetic Scientists (SCS – formerly the Society of Cosmetic Chemists of Great Britain) and of the New York chapter of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists (SCC), having joined the SCS in 1957 and the SCC in 1979.

Tony was born in Portsmouth in 1933. His father, as a bandmaster serving with the Royal Marines, spent long periods at sea during the Second World War, and both before and during that conflict was frequently posted to different locations around the UK. As a result, Tony's schooling was often disrupted. He deferred his National Service while he took a University of London external degree course at Portsmouth Municipal College. He

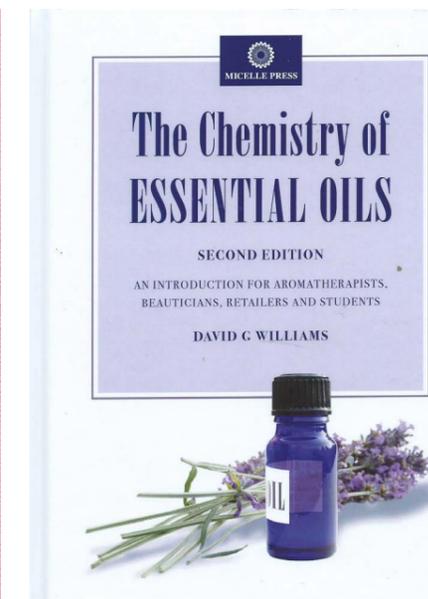
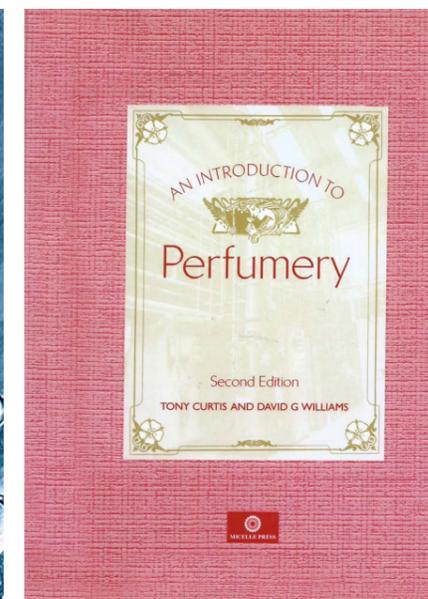
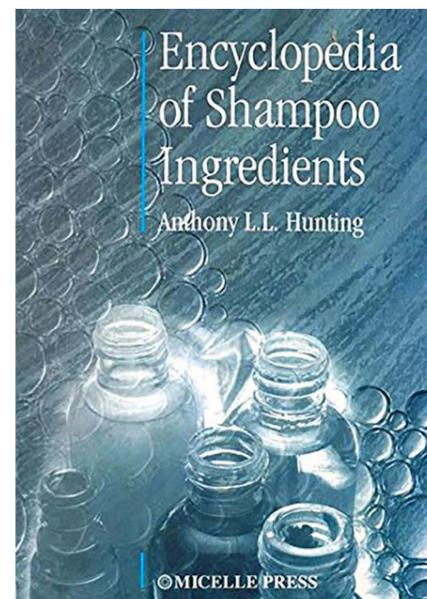
obtained a Chemistry BSc degree in two years. After completing his National Service in the RAF, in 1955 he began to work for Cyclo Chemicals, a surfactants manufacturer for the cosmetics and detergent industries in Woolwich, London, where he became General Manager.

In 1976, the company merged with Witco Chemical Ltd in Belgium, the European subsidiary of the New York group Witco Chemical Company. Tony then joined REWO Chemicals, a soap and detergents manufacturer based in Steinau an der Strasse, Germany, one of the companies comprising the Cosmetic Specialties Group of Emery Industries, and in 1978 he moved with his wife, Janet, to the United States to take up a position as Production Manager at the plant of another member of that Group, Malmstrom Chemicals, in Linden, New Jersey. He left REWO's employ at the end of 1980 to become a consultant on surfactants and a freelance technical writer.

He also set up a publishing business, Micelle Press, in partnership with his wife. Tony wrote and published

four books on cosmetic and toiletry ingredients: his first book, *An Encyclopedia of Shampoo Ingredients*, published in 1983, achieved great success; a companion volume, *An Encyclopedia of Conditioning Rinse Ingredients*, was published in 1987. There followed a two-volume work, *A Formulary of Cosmetic Preparations*. The first volume, *Decorative Cosmetics*, appeared in 1991, and the second, *Creams, Lotions and Milks*, in 1993. Tony went on to publish three books on perfumery, two of which – *The Chemistry of Essential Oils* (1996) by the late David Williams and *An Introduction to Perfumery*, 2nd edition (2001) by Tony Curtis and David Williams – have for many years provided a valuable source of information for students enrolled in ICATS' courses.

Tony was a kind, generous and unassuming man. He showed extreme dedication to his profession, his career and his family. He also found time to pursue his interests in Philosophy, Astronomy, Mathematics, Jazz and the Cinema. He invented several board



Tony Curtis remembers...

games, one of which, *Molecules*, was based on chemical structures. For many years he enjoyed playing squash and badminton.

Tony died on 10th March 2021, aged 87, after a long illness. Tony is survived by his wife Janet and their two sons.

When I was researching some background for this article on Google, I came across a BBC archive page from early 1990s on the Plymouth BA Business of Perfumery degree. One of the problems in getting this degree accepted was that there was not a suitable core textbook. David Williams and I foolishly thought this would be easy. It was not, but we got *Introduction to Perfumery* published. By the time the first edition of the book was published the original publisher had been taken over and the new larger organisation was only interested in mass appeal books. Tony Hunting came to the rescue and in 2001 the second edition was published. David Williams, myself, generations of students and the Aroma Trades Industry are deeply indebted to Tony, not only for rescuing our book but for the loving specialist service he freely provided to the industry.

As one of his authors, I found Tony a truly exceptional Commissioning Editor. His editorial advice was invaluable. At the IFEAT Conference in Singapore I visited the Cosmetic Facilities at Singapore Polytechnic. The first part of the proceedings was the Dean asking me to autograph his copy of *Introduction to Perfumery!* Tony Hunting's contribution to the industry was truly global. Specialist textbooks are not a pathway to fame and fortune; they are a work of love for a subject. We are all greatly indebted for his passion for the subject and the industry.

The ICATS team extend their condolences to Janet and gratefully acknowledge the supply of the detailed biographical information included in this obituary.