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Gerald Dolling (1935–2018)

Gerald Dolling was awarded his BA and PhD degrees by Cambridge University. His graduate topics, undertaken with G.L. Squires, were the measurement of thermal diffuse scattering in lead and the lattice vibrations in silicon by time-of-flight inelastic scattering of neutrons on the BEPO reactor at the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Harwell. He joined the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories in 1961 as a researcher in condensed matter physics using triple axis spectrometers at the NRU reactor. He was an expert in lattice dynamics and worked on metals, semiconductors, alloys such as β-brass, alkali halides, molecular solids and UO₂. With R.A. Cowley, he measured the spin wave excitations in UO₂ and discovered the magnon-phonon interaction and gave a convincing explanation of its origin. He was instrumental in developing high quality squeezed germanium and silicon monochromators for triple-axis spectrometry. He authored 120 research papers and five book chapters. He strongly supported research into industrial applications of neutron scattering, a field which he helped to pioneer in the early 1980s.

He became head of the Neutron and Solid State Physics Branch in 1979, Director of the Physics Division in 1988, and was appointed Vice-President of the Research Company of Atomic Energy of Canada in 1990 with responsibility for the National Fusion Program. A senior associate noted that he was a valuable colleague and the smooth functioning of the neutron group, commented upon by international reviewers, owed much to his input. Gerald Dolling was a member of the Canadian Association of Physicists, the Chemical Institute of Canada, the Canadian Nuclear Society and L’Association Canadienne Française pour l’Avancement des Sciences. He was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society in 1981.

He was an active participant in Nordic and Alpine skiing, sailing, white-water canoeing, music, literature and the arts. He played a leading role in the social life of Deep River as president of the Film Society, chair of the Deep River Community Concerts group, president of the Mount Martin Ski Club, commodore of the Deep River Yacht and Tennis Club and president of the Deep River Community Association. After a long illness, Gerald passed away peacefully on December 31, 2018.

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Yamali Hernandez: neutronnewstf@gmail.com