

Professor Jones was born in the village of Llandybie in Carmarthenshire, Wales, in 1936. He attended the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and graduated (B.Sc.) in 1957. In 1958 he taught chemistry at the Grammar School in Presteigne, Wales. In the autumn of that year he emigrated to Canada where he commenced post gradate studies at the chemistry department of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. He graduated (M.Sc. 1961; Ph.D. 1964) after studies on the conformation of monosaccharide derivatives.

During the period of 1964 to 1971 he pursued various applied and fundamental studies as a Research Officer at the Government of Canada's Food and Drug Directorate, Ottawa (1964-1967); and as a Research Scientist at the Pulp and Paper Research Institute (PPRIC), Pointe Claire, an affiliation of McGill University, the Government of Canada and Canadian Pulp and Paper Associated Companies, in Montreal (1967-1971). In 1971 he was appointed Professor at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), Université du Québec, Québec City, (1971-1997), and subsequent to retirement, as Honorary Professor (1997-2007).

Professor Jones' research interests are the holistic studies of cryospheric ecosystems at different scales. In particular, on research that examines the relationships between the physical dynamics of snow and ice and the nutrient pathways and associated metabolic processes between the atmosphere snow/ice covers and soil in northern and sub-arctic Canadian forest and lake systems, and on complementary laboratory studies that simulate the physical and chemical evolution of snow and ice during extended cold periods and during the melting of snow and ice covers.

From 1991 to 2005 Professor Jones served as President-Elect and President of the International Commission on Snow and Ice (ICSI). At the request of the ICSI Bureau, and with the support of various IUGG Associations and other colleagues in the cryospheric community, he initiated a stepwise process during this period to elevate the status of ICSI to that of an IUGG Association to be named the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS). In 2007 the undertaking came to fruition and IACS became the 8th Association of IUGG at the IUGG General Assembly at Perugia.

Professor Jones is an Honorary Member of IACS and a Life Member of the Eastern Snow Conference (ESC).

In leisure times he devotes much of his attention to such favourite subjects as the social history of Wales, an appreciation of real ales, and following the fortunes of the Llanelli 'Scarlets' the finest club in Welsh Rugby.