The research and teaching of Physiology at University College, London, England is renowned and includes the outstanding contributions of the internationally known research workers J.N. Langley, who introduced the term “autonomic nervous system,” E.H. Starling, known for his heart–lung preparation, Sir Charles Lovatt Evans, the author of the widely used Textbook of Physiology and Chairman of the Department, and A.V. Hill, the Nobel laureate in Physiology and Medicine. For the duration of the Second World War, the course in honors Physiology at University College was suspended and not restarted until 1947. At that time I was one of a very fortunate group of eight students accepted for the full-time course in honors Physiology. At this time Sir Charles Lovatt Evans was Chairman of the Department of Physiology and his faculty included A.V. Hill, L.E. Bayliss, and the neurophysiologist Bernard Katz. No young student could have wished for more stimulating and superbly organized theoretical and experimental courses.

It was during this time that I first met Hugh Davson and Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, who had a research unit in the Department of Physiology at University College, London. Hugh Davson had recently published with Danielli a major treatise “Permeability of Natural Membranes” (University Press, Cambridge 1945) and had turned his focus to the transfer of solutes across the barriers separating the blood stream from the avascular intraocular and cerebrospinal fluids.

Soon after the end of the Second World War, the Medical Research Council of Great Britain set up a research unit (the Ophthalmologic Research Unit) under the direction of Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, the Oculist to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. This research unit began its work in the Department of Physiology at University College under the direction of Hugh Davson, and 2 years later the unit moved to the new Institute of Ophthalmology in Judd St., London. It was in Davson’s laboratory at University College, London that I started my career in physiological research on the eye.
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Langham, M.E.
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