



2021 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: May 30, 1925

Died: March 4, 1983

Primary Connection:

- Boots Pure Drug Co.

Education:

- University of Oxford
Brasenose College: Bachelor's Degree, Chemistry
- University of Oxford: Ph.D., 1950

Key Memberships/Awards:

- Royal Society of Chemistry
National Chemical Landmark (to Boots UK), 2013

7 Things You Need to Know About

John Nicholson

Inventor of Ibuprofen

U.S. PATENT NO. 3,228,831

1. Nicholson attended Manchester Grammar School and went on to study chemistry at Oxford University's Brasenose College.
2. While at Brasenose, it was noted that, "He should develop into a useful scientist, fully aware of his social responsibilities." He fulfilled this prediction, as ibuprofen has provided pain relief to millions.
3. At Brasenose, Nicholson held a College Exhibition (a type of scholarship) of £25 per year.
4. As a research chemist with Boots in Nottingham, he worked on nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for the treatment of arthritis.
5. Nicholson was the organic chemist who synthesized ibuprofen.
6. Ibuprofen gained over-the-counter approval in the United Kingdom in 1983, the same year Nicholson passed away.
7. Nicholson held six U.S. patents.