



2022 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

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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.