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In Memoriam

Malcolm Daniel Lane



Dan has served on the Editorial Board of the BBRC from 1986 to 2014. He was one of its most valued members since he had a broad knowledge of many areas of biochemistry ranging from enzymology to lipid metabolism. As many of you know, Dan had multiple myeloma and battled it courageously for almost a decade. The loss of a beloved spouse is a heart-rendering experience, and for us biochemists closing our laboratory adds to the grief. Both of these painful moments were experienced by Dan in the not too distant past. He lost Pat, his wife of 60 years, and closed his laboratory at Johns Hopkins a short time later.

Dan had published numerous important research papers and had served on several editorial boards. He was co-editor, with William Lennarz, of the Encyclopedia of Biochemistry, which recently published the 2nd edition. He was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 1987 and also received numerous awards in recognition of his scientific accomplishments. Dan had received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his research career, after faculty positions at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and New York University School of Medicine, led him in 1969 to the department of physiological chemistry (now biological chemistry) at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. After 8 years he was appointed chairman of the department as a successor to Albert L. Lehninger, and he served in this capacity until 1997. He then served as Distinguished Service Professor from 1997 to 2013.

In recent years Dan derived great pleasure in boating and fishing on the Chesapeake Bay with his daughter, Claudia, and with his son, Danny, in the waters off Martha's Vineyard. He also enjoyed trips to London to visit his son, an accomplished glass sculpture artist, and his four grandchildren in both London and Switzerland.

Dan was a pioneer in the hey-day of biochemistry and his seminal contributions will long be remembered. He was a stellar figure in enzymology, the area in which his work has contributed greatly to our understanding of lipid metabolism, insulin action, and adipocyte differentiation, with profound impact on problems as socially important as obesity and its control.

Dan was a person of great human qualities, and will be greatly missed by friends and colleagues. To close these few lines we would like to borrow from him the final words of the obituary he and Paul Talalay wrote in 1986, on the occasion of the untimely death of Albert Lehninger. The words apply to Dan as well: he was a gentle man, and a gentleman.

Ernesto Carafoli

Claude B. Klee

William Lennarz