

## D e d i c a t i o n



SOLOMON A. BERSON

1918-1972

SOLOMON A. Berson was born and educated in New York City. He received his B.S. degree from the City College of New York and his M.S. and M.D. degrees from New York University. After an internship at Boston City Hospital and 2 years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps at a medical installation which is now the Veterans Administration Hospital at Bedford, Massachusetts, he joined the Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital to complete his residency training. He was appointed Internist of the Radioisotope Service in 1950, Chief of the Service in 1954, and, in 1963, Senior Medical Investigator of the Veterans Administration, a title he held until his death. In 1968 he accepted appointment as Murray M. Rosenberg Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

For more than two decades Dr. Berson was an outstanding leader in medical research with contributions spanning many fields: thyroid physiology, blood volume determinations, radiation chemistry, and studies on the distribution and metabolism of  $^{131}\text{I}$ -labeled serum proteins. Investigations on the metabolism of  $^{131}\text{I}$ -labeled insulin led to the discovery of the ubiquitous antigenicity of insulin in insulin-treated subjects and finally to the development of radioimmunoassay. The common bond linking all these studies was the application of radioisotope methodology to the solution of problems generally not otherwise solvable. His entire investigative career which was encompassed within the Bronx Veterans

Administration Hospital Laboratory—now designated in his honor as the Solomon A. Berson Research Laboratory—was characterized by critical insight and the ability to forge imaginatively new concepts in medicine and physiology.

Dr. Berson was honored greatly during his life by numerous awards and citations. Scientists and physicians continue to pay homage to his memory by the dedication of memorial issues of medical journals, by special ceremonies at scientific meetings and at symposia such as this, and by the establishment of the Solomon A. Berson Fund for Medical Research. His untimely death has deprived the world of a great humanitarian, scientist, teacher, and clinician but his vibrant life and brilliant contributions have lit a torch to illuminate a path for countless others to follow.

ROSALYN S. YALOW