



Dr Leo T. Samuels

TRIBUTE TO DR LEO T. SAMUELS

It has been the intent of many men through the ages to do something or leave something which will be of importance to the generations which follow. In science we often take the view that the results of our investigations may in some way establish for ourselves such a memorial. The many scientific discoveries of Leo T. Samuels, including his studies of the biosynthesis, secretion, and metabolism of the steroid hormones, have accomplished this purpose. His contributions and publications were extensive. He authored or coauthored over 200 scientific papers, many of which were landmarks in the development of endocrinology. He served on numerous scientific review and advisory committees for the National Institutes of Health, Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation for Cancer Research, American Cancer Society, National Foundation, National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the World Health Organization. President of the Endocrine Society 1957–1958 and recipient of its highest honor, the Fred Conrad Koch Award for 1964, he received many honors and was often invited to lecture or act as a consultant throughout the world. Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Utah 1944–1964, he continued active investigation until his death.

To those of us who knew this man, worked with him, and were taught by him, however, he left a far more significant legacy: that influence which he had, and continues to have, in our lives. He set an example which all students of science could copy. His enthusiasm, drive, and dedication to unravelling the mysteries of the “current project” were unparalleled. More than this, with the close support of his wife, Barbara, he took a personal interest in the lives and careers of all those who were associated with him. His contribution to the scientific community did not end with the publication of his final manuscript. To quote Henry Adams, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops”.

Don H. Nelson, M.D.