

**Memorial Resolution - Ronald Weiss  
January 29, 1937 – September 20, 2014**

Ronald Weiss passed away September 20, 2014 at Agrace Hospice Care in Fitchburg, following a diagnosis of bone marrow cancer in August 2013. Ron was born January 29, 1937, in Chicago, IL. He attended Arizona State University where he earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemistry in 1958 and 1959, respectively. Ron then went to Michigan State University and earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1964 and an M.B.A. in 1967. On Thanksgiving Day, 1967 Ron married his wife of 47 years, Margaret Rozman.

Ron worked for Miles, Inc./Bayer AG from 1964 to 1989, advancing from Research and Development Scientist to various managerial positions, including Vice President of Research and Development and finally Vice President of Administration. From 1989 to 1994 he was General Manager for Marshall Products and became Director of Biotechnology for Rhone Poulenc Inc. 1994-1995.

Ron joined the Food Research Institute (FRI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as Research Program Manager in 1995. He retired from his position September 4, 2007 after 12 years of dedicated service. Ron acted as the liaison between FRI faculty and staff and the university scientific community, and with the corporate sponsors of FRI. As such Ron was an invaluable contributor to the research, service, and education missions of FRI.

Ron brought with him over 30 years of managerial experience and industrial contacts that complemented the research expertise of the FRI faculty and staff. FRI is the portal to food safety at UW-Madison. Ron tirelessly cultivated working relationships with current and potential industrial sponsors to understand their food safety research needs, and how FRI faculty and staff and the vast resources available at UW-Madison could be utilized to help address those needs. He actively participated in local, regional, and national meetings organized by food-related associations to keep abreast of food safety concerns and to promote FRI. Within the Institute, Ron was a colleague and friend to everyone. He encouraged students and post-doctoral researchers to develop their strengths and talents and developed collaborations with other scientists and departments on campus to expand the research capabilities of FRI. Ron assisted FRI in developing a Strategic Plan and a set of By-Laws, which have served as guiding principles in the continued development and growth of FRI since that time.

Ron was instrumental in organizing and spearheading meetings and symposia sponsored by FRI, which provided an open forum for food safety personnel from academia, industry and government to interact and discuss their research findings. Ron spearheaded the FRI Focus on Food Safety Symposium series to address current and emerging issues. Examples of symposium topics include: natural and organic foods; microbial food spoilage; nanotechnology; and development and production of safe process cheese formulation. Ron also helped develop an annual Food Safety Analytical symposium with Covance, Inc., the largest analytical company in the United States devoted to compositional analysis for food labeling. This symposium was and continues to be co-sponsored by Covance and FRI.

Ron launched the FRI Briefs that summarize the scientific literature on a wide array of food safety topics, ranging from food irradiation, to veterinary drug residues in processed meats, to

human illness caused by *E. coli* O157:H7 from food and non-food sources. Many of these briefs were initiated in response to industry concerns and have been widely acclaimed as extremely useful resources for food safety personnel in the food industry and regulatory agencies, as well as for academic researchers.

Although not part of his regular functions, Ron volunteered to present lectures in a graduate level Food Microbiology course and to serve as a mentor to students and postdoctoral researchers who wanted insight into career opportunities in the private sector. He also volunteered to serve on several university committees, including the Search and Screen Committee for Dean of CALS.

Ron was a friendly, social fellow. He made new friends wherever he went, whether he was in the audience at Jazz on the Square, savoring a cheeseburger with fried onions and mayo at Brothers Three, indulging a later-in-life golfing addiction, collecting antique automobile clocks, or vacationing with his wife across the country and overseas. Above all else, he was devoted to his family. Ron is survived by his wife Maggie, daughters Kira and Rebecca, son Robert and his wife Sylvia Lee, and granddaughter Skyla Lee Weiss.

Ron was a tireless and dedicated individual who contributed significantly to the Food Research Institute mission and program, the visibility of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and the well-being of consumers in Wisconsin and across the nation. He will be missed.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Charles Czuprynski, Professor and Chair, Department of Pathobiological Sciences; Director, Food Research Institute*

*Charles Kaspar, Professor and Chair, Department of Bacteriology; Professor, Food Research Institute*

*Barbara Cochrane, Publications Assistant Emerita, Food Research Institute*

*Amy Wong, Professor Emerita, Department of Bacteriology and Food Research Institute*