

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JACK GORSKI

Dr. Jack Gorski, Paul H. Phillips Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Biochemistry, Dairy and Animal Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, died on August 30, 2006 at 75 years of age.

Born in Green Bay on March 14, 1931, Professor Gorski received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He developed his interest in sex steroid hormones and their mechanism of action during his Ph.D. training with Dr. Robert Erb at Washington State University, fueled by a collaboration with Dr. Leo Samuels at the University of Utah. He returned to Madison as an NIH postdoctoral fellow with Professor Gerald Mueller at the McArdle Laboratory of Cancer Research to identify early effects of estrogen in the uterus, key to beginning to understand the underlying mechanisms. Throughout his independent career, initially at the University of Illinois-Urbana, and then at UW-Madison since 1973, he pioneered the modern field of hormone-regulated gene expression.

His most important and influential work relates to the discovery, isolation and characterization of the estrogen receptor protein. His numerous studies on its molecular properties, subcellular localization, and interaction with hormone ligand, genetic elements, and chromatin represent landmark contributions to steroid endocrinology. His insight and ability to nurture creative approaches with his associates led to the development of novel systems for understanding the intracellular mechanisms that lead to the diverse physiologic activities of steroid hormones.

These seminal contributions to biomedical sciences brought him wide recognition. Professor Gorski was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and president of the Endocrine Society. Based on his distinguished leadership in research, teaching, and in the training of scientists, the Endocrine Society also honored Professor Gorski with the Ernst Oppenheimer Memorial Award, the Gregory Pincus Award, the Robert H. Williams Distinguished Leadership Award, Women in Endocrinology Mentor Award, and the Fred Conrad Koch Award, the highest honor awarded by that society. He received the MERIT Award from the National Institutes of Health. The University of Wisconsin honored him with a WARF professorship and the Hilldale Award in the Biological Sciences.

Professor Gorski was widely consulted because of his broad perspective and integrity. He served on many national review and advisory panels and editorial boards of multiple journals, and made extensive constructive contributions to university governance as a member or chair of numerous campus-wide, college, and departmental committees.

Professor Gorski was particularly devoted to students. He made opportunities for many undergraduates to explore research in his laboratory, and his personal and scientific encouragement led many to advanced training. As the creator of an upper level undergraduate course on cellular regulatory mechanisms, he enriched the Department of Biochemistry's course offerings, and as a participant in several advanced medically-oriented courses, he made significant contributions to the education of medical students.

His record of research training is truly remarkable. Many of his graduate students, postdoctoral associates and visiting scientists, numbering more than 100, are now prominent leaders in academia, industry and government. He established a veritable 'school' of steroid hormone researchers and exerted a profound formative influence on the development of the discipline. His continued warm support of their careers and personal happiness was extraordinary.

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After his retirement in 1997, Professor Gorski remained an active participant in numerous aspects of science, including not only national professional activities, but also the local Nuclear Receptor Club, where he continued energetically to prod good science forward, guided by his instinct for biological importance and experimental design. Retirement permitted him to further indulge his passion for dairy cattle, which he continued to own, show, and judge at agricultural expositions to the last weeks of his life. The highlight was winning the Grand Champion Jersey Cow at the 2002 Wisconsin State Fair. He also enjoyed the companionship of his devoted dogs.

Dr. Gorski was much beloved by his many associates. He will be remembered for his unassuming manner, fair and caring spirit, irreverence for accepted paradigms and fierce love of science. By his example as a scientist, mentor and human being, he exerted a lasting influence on his former colleagues and students.

Professor Gorski is survived by his wife, Harriet Fischer Gorski, son Michael and his wife, Anne, of Stamford, Connecticut, daughter JoAnne and husband, David Alkire, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and his six grandchildren, Michael, Caroline, Charles, Melanie, Jennifer, and Andrew.

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