

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROSS B. INMAN

Ross B. Inman, professor emeritus of biochemistry and molecular virology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, passed away on August 5, 2009 at the age of 77 after an extended illness.

Dr. Inman was born on November 4, 1931, in Adelaide, Australia. He attended school in Adelaide during the second world war. During that time, his interest in physics was stimulated by explosives. His extensive childhood experimentation in this area was facilitated by the then-legal and fairly easy procurement of key ingredients. He noted in later life that it would be very difficult in the modern age to get away with some of the things he did during his adventurous childhood. In 1956 he completed his BS with honors and married Beverly Mills. He received his PhD in 1959, with all degrees obtained from the University of Adelaide.

In 1960, he began a postdoctoral appointment at Stanford University with Arthur Kornberg. He also collaborated with Buzz Baldwin and Dale Kaiser. Throughout this time he was developing an expertise with electron microscopy. In 1964, he moved back to Adelaide as a senior research fellow at the University of Adelaide, but this appointment was short-lived. In 1967, he accepted an appointment as associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and remained an active member of the biochemistry faculty until shortly before his death. He was promoted to full professor in 1971, becoming professor emeritus in 2008.

At Madison, the Inman laboratory focused on electron microscopy. Dr. Inman specialized in the visualization of DNA and protein-DNA complexes, eventually becoming one of a very small number of laboratories worldwide to develop extraordinary expertise in this area. His contributions were extensive and included the development of several new methods. Of note was his development of methods to visualize partially denatured DNA, using the reproducibly melted AT-rich regions as markers to measure the advance of DNA replication forks. DNA was spread and shadowed with a precision that permitted the single-stranded and double-stranded regions to be readily identified. This greatly facilitated the analysis of branched DNA structures that were present at replication forks and as intermediates in recombination reactions. His research contributions were chronicled in 152 primary publications. He collaborated extensively with the Cox, Filutowicz, and several other laboratories on campus, as well as several additional laboratories nationally and internationally. Throughout his career, Inman's work was admired for its rigor and consistently high standards. He was not a man to mince words. Students and collaborators alike either met his standards or turned to other pursuits. Much of his work was done with the help of Maria Schnos, a long-term and exceptional assistant scientist. His son, David, also worked productively with him for some time and contributed to several projects.

Ross Inman was a man of diverse interests. In addition to science, he enjoyed playing the harpsichord. Always an Aussie at heart, he traveled back to Australia virtually year and reveled in hikes in the outback and other pursuits. As a hobby, he studied the oils produced from the various species of eucalyptus trees. Son David recalls the chore of moving dozens of trees indoors every winter and back outside in the spring. In his later years, Ross Inman became an advisor to the Australian government. Noting the warm reception normally accorded to individuals with Australian accents in the U.S., he urged the Australian tourism agency to change their approach to advertising. This resulted in the hiring of a series of native Australian spokespersons, beginning with Crocodile Dundee.

Ross Inman is survived by his wife Beverly, sons Andrew and David, and daughter Colleen.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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