

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS DUARD LEE WALKER**

Duard Lee Walker, MD, Paul F. Clark professor emeritus of medical microbiology and immunology, died Monday, September 14, 2009. During a distinguished career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison that spanned nearly four decades, he trained many future academicians and made major contributions in basic research, teaching, administration and academic service.

Professor Walker was born on June 2, 1921, in Bishop, California and grew up on his family's farm. He received a bachelor's degree (Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of California (Berkeley) in 1943, graduated from the University of California Medical School, San Francisco, in 1945, and received a master's degree in anatomy in 1947, also from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Walker completed his internship at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Francisco and a residency in internal medicine at San Francisco General Hospital and Stanford University. He obtained post-graduate research training in virology at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City and in immunology at the Hooper Institute in San Francisco. In addition to his medical and scientific training and academic service, Duard served on active military duty with the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946 and 1953 to 1955, and retired with the rank of captain from the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1981 after 26 years as a consultant at the Great Lakes Naval Station with the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 4.

Duard married Dorothea V. McHenry on August 11, 1945. Together they raised four children, Douglas, Donna Fisher (Bruce), David (Tracy) and Diane Craig (Alan); and later enjoyed three grandchildren, Kate Fisher, Lesley Fisher and Lorelle Craig.

In 1952 the family moved to Madison where Duard had accepted an appointment as associate professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology in the UW Medical School. He was promoted to professor in 1959 and served as chair of the department from 1970 to 1976 and from 1981 to 1988. He was named the Paul F. Clark Professor of Medical Microbiology in 1988 and retired at the end of that year.

During his 36 years of service on the faculty, Dr. Walker was recognized as a gifted teacher of graduate and professional school students. He was an instructor in and later director of the UW Medical School course on microbiology and infectious disease. He advised and mentored many graduate students and fellows, both in his own laboratory and throughout the Department of Medical Microbiology. He was a member of numerous editorial boards and medical societies, and his opinion was sought for national advisory boards.

Dr. Walker will be remembered for his important work in basic virology helping to understand the viral interactions with host cells that allow the establishment of viral latency. Together with his long-time collaborator, Dr. Billie Padgett, in 1971 his lab first isolated the JC virus and showed it was the causal agent of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). This is a devastating neurological disease in immunocompromised patients for which Dr. Gabriele ZuRhein of the UW Department of Pathology had reported electron microscopic evidence of viral particles. Drs. Walker and Padgett and their collaborators went on to demonstrate and characterize the oncogenic potential of JC virus, first in hamsters and later in primates. Work done in Dr. Walker's laboratory was fundamental to delineating the distribution in the population and epidemiology of JC virus, developing techniques for its diagnosis in the laboratory, and characterizing its capacity to cause opportunistic infection in patients who had received bone marrow transplants or had AIDS. For this epochal work, Dr. Walker was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1990.

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Duard was a collaborative scientist, and his personality made possible his landmark discoveries with JC virus. Being collaborative was a natural extension of who Duard was, a kind, warm, outgoing and energetic individual. Always a gentleman, to this day those who worked with him consider themselves very fortunate to have had him as a mentor. Although his external demeanor often appeared serious, even stern, Duard had a keen sense of humor and enjoyed using a number of folksy phrases with those who knew him well.

Of particular note was Duard's extraordinary dedication to mentoring and advancing the careers of young women scientists and professional colleagues. He was exceptionally generous in providing research funds and space to women scientists at a time when this was not the norm. Former trainees and colleagues have acknowledged his exceptional skills and commitment as a mentor to female scientists and academicians, and how his support and encouragement was critical to their professional success.

Duard and his wife Dorothea, or Mac as she is known, shared more than 64 years of marriage. They enjoyed dancing and, especially, their family. They also generously supported the Wisconsin Historical Society and provided generous financial support to a Wisconsin Public Television program "Wisconsin Korean War Stories." He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

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