

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS DAVID T. BERMAN

Professor Emeritus David T. Berman died July 8, 2010 after a long and distinguished career as a scholar, scientist, educator and academic administrator. He was born June 14, 1920 in Brooklyn, New York, the youngest of four sons of Russian-Jewish immigrant parents. The product of New York public schools, he set his professional course as a scientist at an early age as he explored the intellectual bounty of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the American Museum of Natural History and the New York Public Library. In his University of Wisconsin Archives oral history interview he said, "I just knew that the natural sciences were something for me and that biology was in particular what I wanted to do." He graduated from Brooklyn College in 1939, with a major in biology. In the interview he indicated that while taking bacteriology courses, "I loved it and learned quickly that I wanted to do research." It was also at Brooklyn College where he met his future wife, Rhoda.

He intended to go to medical school but, confronted with strict quotas imposed by medical schools on the number of Jews who would be admitted and the lingering effects of the Depression on his family's financial resources, he attended the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. At that time, that institution offered low tuition to qualified New York state residents. He graduated from Cornell in 1944 with the degree Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Following receipt of his DVM, he attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and received his MS and PhD degrees in 1949 and 1950. He accepted a faculty position in 1951 in the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Wisconsin and embarked on a distinguished career of teaching, research and administration until his retirement in 1987. He served as graduate advisor and mentor to many students from this country and abroad, all of whom share their lasting and profound respect for Professor Berman as a teacher, scientist and caring human being.

Professor Berman's tenure at the university included service as chairman of the Department of Veterinary Science (1964-1968) and associate dean of the Graduate School (1969-1976), as well as a member of many departmental, college and campus committees. Among those committees and the time he served were: University Committee (1980-1983) serving as chair during 1982-83; Faculty Senator (1983-1985) and Faculty Senate Alternate (1985-1987); PROFS, Inc, Steering Committee (1980-1984); Primate Center Committee (1969-1975); Graduate School Research Committee (1969-1975); Cancer Research Committee (1970-1975); Biotron Advisory Committee (1970-1975); Protection of Human Subjects Committee (1971-1974) serving as chair during 1973-1974; Research Animal Resources Committee chair (1971-1975); Student Housing Advisory Committee (1971-1972); Graduate School Administrative Committee (1973-1975); Equity in Graduate Appointments Committee (1974-1977); Faculty Consultative Committee on Financial Emergency (1980-1982); and Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits (1982-1983).

Professor Berman was a scientist of the highest order. He was the author/coauthor of more than 150 peer-reviewed papers that focused on infections and immunity. Although his research and expertise encompassed many areas of infectious diseases, especially notable among them were his studies on brucellosis which led to the control and eradication of that disease of cattle and human beings in the United States. In 1976, at the request of the USDA, he chaired a national technical commission for a comprehensive study of the nationwide brucellosis eradication program. In 1980, the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the US Animal Health Association and the Association of State and Federal Veterinarians gave the Animal Health Award to Professor Berman, individually as commission chair, and to the technical commission as a body for their contributions to the brucellosis eradication program. Dr. Berman also received the Animal Health Award in 1990 for the success of his graduate study program for state and federal veterinarians.

(continued)

Professor Berman served for many years on expert advisory committees for the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization especially for their brucellosis programs. As part of that activity he went to several countries as an advisor on behalf of those organizations. In 1963 he took a study leave at the State Serum Institute in Denmark and at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge, England.

In 2009, the 5th International Veterinary Vaccines and Diagnostics Conference, held in Madison, recognized him for his many contributions to research and graduate study in the veterinary medical sciences. Many of his former graduate students came from far away places to participate in that special event. The number who attended were testimony to the great respect for him as mentor and teacher, highly respected scientist and dear friend.

Dr. Berman is survived by his wife of 65 years, Rhoda; two children Morris (Joanne) and Sara (Emily Sample); two grandchildren, Mateo and Hector; sister-in-law Mary Berman; and many cherished nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Charles Czuprynski

Bernard Easterday

Ronald Schultz, chair