

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS RAYMOND RUSSELL BROWN

Raymond Russell Brown was born to Anna E. and William Frederic Brown in 1926 in Calgary, Alberta, and grew up on a farm near Kathryn, Alberta. He began his education in a one-room schoolhouse, then attended Mt. Royal Junior College on a scholarship. He received a BS and an MS (1950) in organic chemistry from the University of Alberta, synthesizing analogues of mitotic inhibitors. He received his PhD in 1953 at the University of Wisconsin, working at the McArdle Laboratory with Dr. James Miller, studying the mechanisms of cancer induction in laboratory animals.

Ray joined the Division of Clinical Oncology in the Department of Surgery as an assistant professor working with Dr. James M. Price and Dr. Anthony R. Curreri, who were studying tryptophan metabolism in humans. Ray's research continued with focus and productivity in that direction, studying the metabolism of tryptophan in oral contraceptive users and patients with bladder, liver, and breast cancers. His research philosophy reflected his understanding of the multiple roles of tryptophan, which include its role as a precursor of serotonin, melatonin, and NAD, as well as the potential toxicity of some of its metabolites, including picolinic and quinolinic acids. The discovery by Dr. Osamu Hayaishi's group of tryptophan metabolism via indoleamine dioxygenase (IDO), and the induction of this enzyme by interferon, revealed a role for tryptophan metabolism in inflammation and in modulation of the immune system. This development led Ray to become involved in research on tryptophan in additional areas, including rheumatoid arthritis, AIDS, inflammatory lung disease, and the eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome. Ray published over 90 papers in the tryptophan field. Other research interests included aspects of vitamin B₆ metabolism and the role of dietary fats in cancer.

Ray's interest in tryptophan led him to join with other colleagues, including (among others) Drs. Ryo Kido and Osamu Hayaishi (of Japan), Dr. Walter Kochen (of Germany), and Dr. Graziella Allegri (of Italy), in founding the International Study Group for Tryptophan Research (ISTRY) in 1974, with the aim of fostering international collaborations and friendships in this field. Ray took great pride in hosting its second meeting in Madison in 1977. In 1998 he, along with Drs. Kido and Kochen, was awarded the first honorary membership in ISTRY "in appreciation of his outstanding and fundamental research in tryptophan metabolism, and his untiring dedication to the aims of ISTRY."

In his laboratory work, Ray greatly enjoyed working with a small group of committed people. He would often have a small lab with a graduate student and/or postdoc and one or two other technologists. Much of the work in Ray's lab was done with his own hands. He greatly enjoyed the actual "hands-on" aspects of generating data, running gels, evaluating columns, and quantifying molecules of interest in lab specimens or clinical specimens related to his hypotheses. His preference was for collaboration and cooperation, rather than competition (except in ice hockey).

Ray was dedicated to his co-workers and scientific colleagues and was liberal in offering his time and talents. From 1961–1963 he served as the interim leader of the Division of Clinical Oncology. He was helpful in resolving personal as well as divisional and general problems and was always willing to take time on short notice to listen to research or administrative questions or issues from colleagues and trainees.

As his research developed and with reorganization of the Department of Surgery in the early 1970s, Ray became a member of the new Department of Human Oncology and also later the Department of Nutritional Sciences. This provided the opportunity for Ray to develop relations with graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, many of the latter coming to the university from other schools in other countries. As these students and fellows took other positions, or returned to their home institutions, Ray maintained collaborative relationships and research projects with many of them. This afforded Ray opportunities to travel abroad and attend international meetings in leadership roles. Ray retired from the University of Wisconsin in 1996 and was promoted to professor emeritus of human oncology.

Ray had many outside interests, hobbies, and diverse friends. He was a devoted ice hockey fan and player, skating until hip replacements forced him to quit at age 70. He coached and refereed youth hockey and was a goal judge for the University of Wisconsin for many years. He enjoyed hunting, camping and canoeing with his family and caring for his "farm" in Richland County, where he planted trees and made maple syrup for friends and family. He enjoyed music, especially playing his trumpet and playing in the neighborhood band on the 4th of July. He was also a photographer and woodworker, making beds for his grandchildren and woodcarvings for his home. He had a good sense of humor and enjoyed puns and jokes.

Through his work and by maintaining relationships with colleagues and students from other countries, Ray made lifelong friendships and was able to travel to visit them with his late wife of 46 years, Eleanor, and in his last eight years with his special friend, Marion Meyer. Ray was a member of the First Unitarian Society, Voyageurs, 4th Tuesday Club, and the Madison Civics Club.

Ray Brown died on June 23, 2010. He is survived by his children, Laura Brown (Mark Shahan), Jeff (Kristen) Brown and Doug Brown; grandchildren, Alex, Katrina, Marla and Ross Brown; his brother, Ken (Viola) Brown, and sister, Reta Kennedy in Alberta, Canada; his beloved partner of eight years, Marion Meyer; Marion's children, Rob Meyer (Ella McLeester), Martha Rosemeyer (Mario Gadea), Betsy Meyer (Ernie Polo), and Dewey Meyer; Kathy Germann; and by seven nieces and nephews.

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