In Memoriam

Russell Ross

Dr. Russell Ross, Professor of Pathology and Adjunct Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Washington School of Medicine, died after a brief illness on March 18, 1999, at the University of Washington Medical Center. Russ, as he was called by his friends and colleagues, was 69 years old. He came to the University of Washington in 1958 as a graduate student in the Experimental Pathology Program directed by Dr. Earl Benditt. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1962 Russ rose through the faculty ranks and was appointed Professor of Pathology in 1969. As Chair of the Department of Pathology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, Russ greatly expanded the activities of the department and strengthened both its research and clinical activities to make it one of the top departments of pathology in the country. Thanks to Russ's dynamic leadership and the work of many colleagues, the University of Washington School of Medicine came to be recognized as an outstanding center for research and training in vascular biology and pathology.

During the past 25 years, Russ made notable contributions to the understanding of the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. Together with John Glomset, Russ formulated the "Response to Injury Hypothesis" of atherosclerosis in 1973. The hypothesis, which has been tested and modified from its original formulation, has had a profound impact on atherosclerosis research and vascular biology. Instead of a site for passive accumulation of blood lipids, the artery wall is now seen as a living, reactive tissue capable of mounting an inflammatory response. Russ and his colleagues are credited with many major discoveries, among them the work with Dr. Daniel Bowen-Pope on the identification of platelet-derived growth factor receptors. More recently Russ's laboratory has done studies on the early diagnosis and evolution of atherosclerotic lesions in humans, primates, and various animal models. Dr. Elaine Raines, Russ's close collaborator and associate for 26 years, was a major participant in most of the work from the laboratory.

Russ has been honored with many awards, honorary professorships, and lectures. In just one year, 1998, he received the Distinguished Achievement award from the Society for Cardiovascular Pathology, the Louis and Artur Lucian Award for Research in Circulatory Diseases from McGill University in Montreal, the International Okamoto Award from the Japanese Vascular Disease Research Foundation and presented the first Distinguished Vascular Biology Lecture of the American Heart Association. He

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was a past president of the American Society for Investigative Pathology and in 1992 received the Society's Rous-Whipple Award. He was also a member of the Editorial Board of *The American Journal of Pathology*.

Russ was a very productive scientist and an outstanding teacher. He trained a large number of postdoctoral fellows who went on to have distinguished careers of their own in this country and throughout the world. Together with Drs. V. Fuster and E. J. Topol, he co-edited the widely used text *Atherosclerosis and Coronary Artery Disease*. Since 1968 he served on the editorial boards of more than 20 scientific journals. His reviews on atherosclerosis including one published in December 1995 in the *American Journal of Pathology* and the most recent one, which appeared in January 1999 in the *New En-*

gland Journal of Medicine are landmarks in the field. These articles gave real meaning to the often misused "state-of-the-art" label.

Russ was a member of many national and international committees, chaired and co-chaired 15 research conferences, and served as a consultant to biotechnical and pharmaceutical companies. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1987. He was heavily involved in community activities and was a longstanding member of the Board of Trustees, the Artistic Advisory Committee, and the Planning Committee of the Seattle Symphony.

It is hard for me to accept Russ's death. As my predecessor as Chair of the Department of Pathology of the University of Washington School of Medicine, he seemed to me to be an indestructible individual, invariably enthu-

siastic and energetic. Everything he did, even the smallest thing, was done with great passion. His enthusiastic approach extended from science to, among other interests, music, art, playing squash, travel, and wine. But his real passions were Jean, his wife, and their children, Douglas and Valerie. Russ will be greatly missed by them and by his many colleagues and friends throughout the world.

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