

Dr. James L. Krahenbuhl dies at age 74 in California

James L. Krahenbuhl, Director (retired) of the National Hansen's Disease Programs (NHDP) in Baton Rouge, LA died in Palo Alto, CA on July 29, 2017 of complications from non-Hodgkins Disease lymphoma. He was 74. He was born October 7, 1942 in Appleton, WI and grew up in nearby Menasha. Jim is survived by Betty, his wife of 52 years, Jeff, their son, his wife, Rebecca, and their daughter, Amber who currently reside in Fremont, CA.

Jim once told me his interest in the sciences was sparked during classes in parasitology where he found beauty in the form and function of microorganisms. He received his bachelor's degree in Zoology as well as his M.S. and Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology from the University of Wisconsin. His working career began at Stanford University and the Palo Alto Medical Research Foundation around 1970. During these early years his focus was on the immune response in infectious diseases and cancer. As his interests evolved, he turned his attention to a seminal cell of the immune system, known as the macrophage. During his 35-plus years at the bench leading research groups at Stanford and then the NHDP, he helped solidify our understanding of how the macrophage ingests and destroys intracellular pathogens, such as *Mycobacterium leprae* (leprosy), *M. tuberculosis* (tuberculosis) and *Toxoplasma gondii* (toxoplasmosis).

After a productive career and many awards as Chief of the Immunology Research Department at the NHDP, Jim took over as Chief of the Laboratory Research Branch. During his tenure the laboratory expanded its research portfolio to include drug discovery for tuberculosis. The TB work was critical as a global threat was emerging leaving people facing TB infections that were resistant to all common antibiotics used to treat TB. Recognizing the unique resources at the NHDP for managing leprosy and providing state of the art research capabilities, Jim became an outspoken and effective advocate for the program as he transitioned to become its 12th Director. During his tenure as Director (2005-2013), he made multiple trips to Washington to educate any and all who would listen.

With Jim's death we have all lost a great friend, scholar and raconteur. Personally, I will remember him for his wit and candor but mostly for his passion; whether it be in pursuit of a scientific truth, the best performance of Beethoven's Ninth or the best coleslaw recipe in the country. While Jim liked playing the curmudgeon, his interest in others was evident in his enthusiasm mentoring younger scientists. He also was a purveyor of sharing and discussing good books and he possessed a strong sense of loyalty.

Jim and Betty were best friends who enjoyed each other's company, shared a passion for places like Vienna, Switzerland, San Francisco, Carmel, Yosemite and Glacier National Park. They especially enjoyed hiking and camping in the redwoods and beach walking. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Mary Krahenbuhl, of Menasha and his one sibling, an older brother, Tom. A Memorial Service was set for September 9, 2017 at the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park,

CA. The family requested no flowers but donations can be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (donate.lls.org).

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