

Introduction and Dedication

This supplement to the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* is dedicated to Jack S. Remington, MD, and represents the proceedings from a symposium, “Insights on Infection and Immunity: A Festschrift in Honor of Jack Remington,” which was held on 19 January 2001 at the Fairchild Auditorium, Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto, California. Each of the 14 speakers had done their postdoctoral studies in Jack’s laboratory over a period ranging from the late 1960s to the late 1990s. The diversity of the work represented in these papers demonstrates the breadth and depth of Jack’s intellectual interests and the legacy of his commitment to training the next generations of scientists in infectious diseases and immunology.

The symposium was the centerpiece of a 3-day celebration of Jack’s 70th birthday and career as researcher, mentor, and clinician. The celebration began on the evening of January 18 when Dr. Alan Cooper, Director of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) and home for Jack’s laboratories for over 35 years, hosted an open house and dinner at the newly relocated Foundation. The occasion provided a venue for a reunion of his former fellows and an evening of reminiscences. Joining Jack’s former fellows were friends, PAMF staff, and colleagues from the Palo Alto Clinic. The evening was filled with the inevitable sharing of stories about life at PAMF, highlighted as the evening wore on by the retelling of stories about “The Rem.” Included were some of the fabled “STAT Jack” stories (the moniker denotes the sense of immediacy that permeated Jack’s clinical and scientific endeavors and demands on those who worked with him), which, in many cases, could finally be verified by the actual participants, with a few stories being left to legend. The symposium was held the next day and was followed by an elegant reception and banquet attended by 220 family members, friends, former fellows, and colleagues from throughout the nation and the world. On Saturday morning, 20 January, Jack and his wife, Françoise, hosted a brunch at the Westin Hotel in Palo Alto for the attendees.

This event provided a special opportunity for the more than 50 postdoctoral fellows who passed through Jack’s laboratory to honor his lifelong dedication to fostering their careers and to laugh about some of the unique features of having trained with him. Many of Jack’s trainees came from clinical backgrounds. During an intense 2- to 3-year period, these physicians were introduced (many for the first time) to the rigors of research methodology and engaged in basic and applied research on *Toxoplasma*, other opportunistic pathogens, and host resistance mechanisms. This was coupled with mentoring in clinical infectious diseases at Stanford University. Together, these experiences represented a unique shakedown opportunity for making a career choice of clinical or academic medicine. For Ph.D. fellows, who had a running start on research experience, there was the



opportunity to work in a laboratory with a world-class reputation for excellence, to acquire new methodology, and to explore novel mechanisms of cell-mediated immunity to intracellular pathogens.

Each of Jack’s fellows shared a few common experiences. Before the arrival of plasticware, in order to imprint the importance of the proper preparation of tissue culture glassware, fellows did a brief rotation as dish washers in the media kitchen. Similarly, proper animal care was not taken for granted once a fellow rotated through the animal house. We all learned to write scientific papers Jack’s way, sometimes painfully. Drafts were always on yellow paper, triple spaced with large margins. Before word processing, Jack scribbled comments, crossed out vast passages, and moved text around by drawing confusing arrows all over the page (for an example, see the paper by Montoya, pages 73–82). At least once, a fellow earned the ultimate blow to his or her ego, a margin note stating “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, please help me understand this” (Jack had attended Loyola). We learned that keeping abreast of the literature was to be done in our off hours. Jack never used a briefcase. Journals

were stuffed into a cardboard box, taken home with him at night, and passed out to the appropriate fellow in the morning with articles underlined and comments throughout.

The evening celebrations also provided an opportunity for testimonials to Jack's indelible relationships and imprint on the many other colleagues who, having not trained under Jack directly, nonetheless benefited from and valued their long-standing relationships with him. These colleagues included his many friends from the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Immunocompromised Host Society, *Toxoplasma* community, and other formal and informal organizations to which he has contributed much over his career. It also provided an opportunity for other anecdotes and "war stories," including references to the intensity with which Jack attacked his leisure activities—and the price paid. He had always kept himself trim and in excellent physical shape, but no activity was pursued at anything less than full speed. For a while, tennis was his passion, but it was ended

by a terminal case of tennis elbow. Numerous sprains and broken bones have accompanied his fervor for skiing and rock climbing. In recent years, wind surfing had become his passion but not without consequence—broken ribs and a near drowning. In his 70th year, there was some evidence that Jack was mellowing. Photographic evidence was shown of Jack gazing at, not climbing, mountains. Jack was shown fishing on a riverbank, and, most amazing of all, Jack was photographed golfing, which, on second thought, could put others at considerable risk.

We the organizers of the Festschrift gratefully acknowledge the advice and hard work by Jack's wife, Françoise Remington; his long-time administrative assistant at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Trisha Mitchell; and Christine Collins (Administrative Assistant to the Chair, State University of New York, Stony Brook).

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