

ANTOINE (Tony) A. NOUJAIM, (1937 – 2006): An Academic Life

Tony Noujaim was born in Cairo, Egypt, and educated through a First Class Honours degree in Pharmacy at Cairo University. He completed his formal education, (MSc Bionucleonics, 1963; PhD Bionucleonics, 1965) as a Fulbright Scholar at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana, USA, and shortly after, came to the University of Alberta as an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Tony elected early retirement from the University in 1996 to pursue, on a full-time basis, his dream of entrepreneurial R & D in the pursuit of improved diagnosis and treatment of cancer, a dream fuelled by the loss of several family members to this relentless disease. The University of Alberta recognized Tony's academic contributions by bestowing the Honorary Doctor of Science degree in 2001. Regional, National and International recognition of his work is detailed in his public *curriculum vitae*.

Despite his pride on becoming a Canadian citizen, after several years as a stateless resident in Canada, Tony was a citizen of the world. He never lost sight of his humanitarian principles; indeed, his appreciation of personal, ethnic and religious freedoms formed the basis of interaction with students, colleagues and indeed all of his contemporaries. His scientific and entrepreneurial achievements notwithstanding, his contributions to those of us who worked closely with him, and who joined him in a variety of recreational pursuits, his lasting legacies will reflect his ability to instil humanitarian ideals in those whom he touched.

Each of us has a story about Tony. Professor Emeritus Stan Shaw (Purdue) remembers Tony as *the friendly fellow that was always in the lab*; Professor Emeritus John Christian, major professor for Tony at Purdue, *considered Tony as one of the very best graduate students that he worked with over the many years of his career*, quite a compliment since Dr. Christian worked with about 300 students. For Dr. Mike Adam (*TRIUMF*), Tony was *a bright spot for all of us*

in the field, and Professor Terry Jones (Manchester) remembers Tony *with fondness from the time of the Edmonton meeting in the early eighties when he was so full of enthusiasm for the MARIA Project*. Professor Emeritus Peter Cox (formerly in Rotterdam) says Tony was *a great guy and a major player in both academic and industrial nuclear medicine*, and Professor Geerd Meyer (Hannover, Germany), Peter Eu (Melbourne, Australia) and Dr. Fernando Kreutz (Porto Alegre, Brazil) acknowledge his mentorship at critical moments in their formative years as young scientists.

Clearly, attempts to recall all of the unique experiences involving Tony are not possible in this issue. However, citing editorial privilege, we have added vignettes from our own experiences: Len, Tony's first post-doctoral fellow, remembers accompanying Tony to a scientific meeting at the Playboy Club in Eau Claire, Wisconsin (1971), where we met none other than Nobel Laureate (to be; 1977), Dr. Rosalyn Yalow. Steve, one of Tony's last graduate students before Tony's retirement from University life to start his second career in the commercial biotech sector, has fond memories of their conversations centred around many fine meals, glasses of wine, and the Friday afternoon debriefings at the Faculty Club (photo).

In closing, we would like to thank Fakhreddin Jamali, JPPS Editor, for his encouragement and cooperation in making this special *Noujaim Memorial Issue* possible. We also want to thank Glenis Wiebe and Rob McQuarrie for production editing assistance, the numerous manuscript reviewers for ensuring the highest academic standards, and the authors for dedicating their research to the memory of a fallen colleague.

Here's to you, Tony!

Leonard I Wiebe, DSc, PhD
Steve A McQuarrie, PhD
Co-editors

Postscript: We regretfully report the untimely passing of Professor John Samuel, PhD, a colleague and friend of Tony and indeed of

many authors recorded in this issue. John completed his doctoral studies with Len Wiebe and Ed Knaus at the University of Alberta in 1985, and worked with Tony, in the field of cancer immunology, for several years prior to joining the academic staff of the Faculty of



Tony & Len at the El Cid Marina in Mazatlan, Mexico, Tony's favourite family vacation spot, interrupting a holiday with work (2002).

Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Edmonton in 1992. John dedicated one of his manuscripts to Tony; it is published in this issue. John died at age 53, after a four year battle with cancer.



Tony, PDFs Watanabe (Japan) and Stathaki (Greece), and Steve at the Faculty Club Beer Garden, circa 1986.