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## IN MEMORIAM

John (Jack) B. Hay, PhD December 24, 1942 - February 25, 2019 Lymphoimmunologist and Mentor Extraordinaire

## A. Young, M. Johnston



Dr. Jack Hay was an Emeritus Professor of the Department of Immunology and was Acting Chair (2000) and Undergraduate Program Coordinator (2006), as well serving in numerous roles during his distinguished academic and scientific career at the University of Toronto.

I am saddened by the passing of a wonderful individual but also for the loss his family and friends suffers. Jack's research focus was in the study of the lymphatic system, in which his laboratory made several important contributions, including creating innovative approaches for enumerating the number and types of cells recirculating in the lymphatics and elucidating the mechanisms behind lymphocyte trafficking. Jack was also an avid outdoorsman and a dedicated mycologist.



Many outstanding former undergraduates of our Immunology programs have had the honor of receiving The John Bruce Hay Immunology Student Achievement Award for excelling in Practical Immunology (IMM435), the 4<sup>th</sup> year Laboratory Course in Immunology that Jack reimagined and coordinated for many years. These and many other efforts will surely continue to have an enormous impact of his legacy within our academic and research community.

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It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Professor Jack Hay, a man I greatly admired. I had the privilege of knowing Jack for over 40 years, as one of his students, as a colleague and most importantly, as a friend. With your indulgence, I would like to provide a few thoughts about this remarkable man.

I first met Jack in 1974 when I entered graduate school at the University of Toronto. I must say that this period in my life was a revelation due in large part to Jack. In many ways, he was the heart and soul of the experimental pathology group that existed at that time and I quickly had the privilege of being co supervised by him. What an adventure! Jack was a serious scientist but his special talent was making learning fun.

Shortly after starting, I was dressed in a surgical gown, scalpel in hand with a sheep on the operating table. One of the first things Jack did was teach me how to cannulate the efferent duct of the popliteal lymph node. My only experience even remotely related to this was frog dissection in high school biology class. From Jack, I learned about the lymphatic circulation which was to become the focus of my career. It is important to emphasize that Jack was a very well respected scientist in the field of immunology. He was especially famous for his studies on the physiology of immunity where he studied how lymphocytes travel from one site to another. He developed innovative ways to label cells so he and his students could follow their migration in the body. His academic legacy will live on as these excellent papers continue to be cited in the literature. Along the way, Jack helped to train numerous individuals who would go on to have successful careers in a variety of fields including academia, medicine, dentistry and many others. As one of this group I can say that I wouldn't have had a career if it were not for the guidance, sage advice, friendship and kindness of Jack.

As a colleague I continued to learn from this wonderful mentor. Jack helped me navigate the murky waters of academia. Indeed, most of the successful research I was part of started out as an idea from Jack. He would plant the seeds and many of these developed into interesting projects. During this period, Jack was always looking out for me. I remember when I heard that I had lost my research grant early in my career, Jack immediately said we were going to lunch and proceeded to raise my spirits and give me confidence for the future.

Jack also taught me an appreciation of the world outside of University business. As an example, for many years I have admired the iconic Canadian northern Ontario landscape paintings of Tom Thompson and the group of 7. I had the opportunity to observe these scenes first hand from the deck of a houseboat on Georgian bay with Jack and his wonderful wife Kazy. My wife and I had many enjoyable times on their houseboat; great food, fun and laughter traveling around the bays with Captain Jack at the helm.

So how do we sum up Professor Jack Hay? Devoted father and husband; a world class scientist; a wonderful mentor to his students and colleagues; a man full of life with an amazing sense of humor. A friend to many.

Jack added color to a monochromatic world and in doing so enriched our lives in so many ways. We will never forget him.

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**Editor's Note:** Both Drs. Johnston and Hay have been longtime members of the journal *Lymphology*'s Editorial Board