

IN MEMORIAM**Joseph Mendel Yoffey, M.D.**

Joseph M. Yoffey (1902-1994)

Lymphology lost one of its greatest scientists and benefactors this past year. His passing, along with that of F.C. Courtice several months earlier, ends one of the longest and greatest scientific collaborations in studying the intricacies of the lymphatic system. Their textbook *Lymphatics, Lymph, and the Lymphomyeloid Complex* published in 1970, which was an outgrowth of Cecil Drinker's original text and their own earlier edition published in 1956, is now a bona-fide classic that sits, never gathering dust, on the desk of any serious investigator of lymphatics, lymph, lymphocytes, and lymph nodes. Whereas Courtice tackled the dynamics of lymph formation and flow, Yoffey was the acknowledged guru of lymphocytes and their migration. Indeed, long before the

implications of cell trafficking and circulating lymphocyte subpopulations became household concepts, Yoffey recognized the importance of "migrant streams" of lymphocytes and other cellular components including their implication in cancer and viral diseases and the key role that the lymphatic system played in overall regulation. It is worthwhile in this regard to quote from their 1956 publication, *"The hypothesis which best fits in with all the facts presented is that the small lymphocyte is a specialized form of the primitive mesenchymal cell, in a resting, relatively inactive state and reduced to the small possible size for the purpose of easy mobilization and transport through the bloodstream. In response to stimuli as yet unknown, it can once again revert to an active state and undergo development into other cell types."* This statement was written at a time when the orthodox view was that the lymphocyte was a "mature" or "dead-end" cell.

A long-time Professor at the University of Bristol, in later years Yoffey resided in Israel. Whereas the infirmities of physical aging often precluded his attending the recent International Lymphology Congresses in person, he was always there with his fellow lymphomanics in spirit and recently on videotape flashing his wonderful pixie smile exhorting us forward with his visionary concepts and insights. We will all miss him.

Charles L. Witte, M.D.