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Memorial service at RU honors Zanvil Cohn (1926-1993)

The Rockefeller University lost one of its most distinguished scientists and well-loved teachers when Zanvil A. Cohn, professor and vice president for medical affairs, died suddenly of an aortic dissection June 28. A memorial service for Cohn, a leading cell biologist and immunologist at Rockefeller for 35 years, was held at the university several days later (excerpts, page 3).

"Zan was a prince of a man who inspired all of us fortunate enough to have known him," said President Torsten Wiesel. "He was an eminent scientist, a caring physician and a great human being guided by a clear philosophical stance. Zan was the Henry G. Kunkel Professor, recognized internationally for his research. Our sympathy goes out to his family, all members of his lab, students, colleagues and friends."

Cohn was a pioneer in the modern study of the body's defense mechanisms against infection. His groundbreaking experiments have shaped the modern science of macrophages, the large white blood

cells that are pivotal in inflammation and immunity. Cohn is best known for elucidating mechanisms whereby these cells identify, engulf and destroy infectious microbes. In these studies, he uncovered many events in endocytosis, the pathway in which macrophages and all other cells devour and metabolize substrates from the environment. He and his colleagues also discovered that macrophages secrete a large repertoire of chemicals that in turn orchestrate the activities of other cells during inflammation and wound healing.

Cohn's findings on macrophages engendered several insights on other immune cells, particularly dendritic cells and T-lymphocytes. His laboratory discovered dendritic cells and demonstrated their potency in initiating an immune response. The laboratory also proved that T-cell products called lymphokines activate macrophages to kill parasites and tumor cells.

In a series of recent studies, highly purified lymphokines were shown to enhance resistance of patients with leprosy and AIDS. At the time of his death, the work was being extended to tuberculosis. These studies were carried out at the university's Hospital as well as in Asia and Latin America where these diseases are endemic.

Cohn's support of young scien-

tists is reflected in the scores of men and women he trained who have become leaders in universities throughout the world, as well as in his stewardship of the university's M.D.-Ph.D. program, which he helped establish in the early 1970s.

In recognition of Cohn's deep commitment to young scientists, the university is setting up the Zanvil Cohn Student Travel Fund to foster exchange with graduate students outside the United States.

Cohn was born in New York City on Nov. 16, 1926. He received a B.S. from Bates College in 1948 and an M.D., *summa cum laude*, from Harvard Medical School in 1953. He interned and was a resident at the Massachusetts General Hospital from 1953 to 1955, then joined the Army Medical Corps, attaining the rank of captain in 1957.

Cohn came to Rockefeller in 1958 as a research associate in the laboratory of the late René Dubos and as an assistant physician in the Hospital. He was appointed professor and senior physician in 1962, the first Henry G. Kunkel Professor in 1986, and Vice President for Medical Affairs in 1992. Since 1977, he was also adjunct professor of medicine at Cornell University Medical College.

He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1975, and received numerous awards, includ-

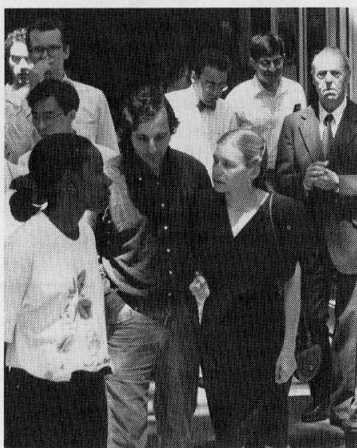


Zanvil A. Cohn

ing honorary degrees from Bates College (1986), Oxford University (1988) and Rijksuniversiteit, Leiden, The Netherlands (1990).

Cohn was editor of *The Journal of Experimental Medicine* and on the editorial boards of several other publications. He served on scientific advisory committees and on the boards of trustees of many prestigious institutions.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years Fern Dworkin, his children David and Ellen, three grandchildren and a younger brother Donald.



Members of the university community leave a memorial service in honor of Zanvil Cohn, professor and vice president for medical affairs.

Rockefeller hosts workshop on antibiotic resistance

A small group of some of the nation's leading experts on public health and infectious diseases gathered for a one-day workshop on microbial antibiotic resistance at The Rockefeller University July 21. The meeting was organized by Professor Alexander Tomasz with the university's support.

President Torsten Wiesel welcomed the participants, who included University Professor and former Rockefeller president Joshua Lederberg and representatives from major academic and Federal organizations. Tomasz, who moderated the event, said it was time to focus basic research and public policy on finding the best way to combat emerging multi-resistant bacterial pathogens. He pointed out that as a result of the widespread and often indis-

criminate use of antibiotics over the last 50 years, nearly all kinds of disease-causing bacteria have acquired the ability to outmaneuver and resist drugs that once held them in check. He warned that we may be entering a "post-antibiotic era" when antibiotics will no longer be effective.

"On an evolutionary scale, bacteria and host have been facing each other for billions of years," explained Tomasz. "What we are dealing with here is a very narrow window of time—the period between 1940 and now—when a brand-new kind of host defense was deployed against bacteria, antagonizing them and disrupting our historic coexistence with the entire prokaryotic world."

The bacteria have now developed mechanisms to resist every

known usable antibiotic. In the most dangerous cases, all these mechanisms of resistance are combined in one single bacterium which can resist all antibacterial agents. The resistant genes can be spread, transferred from one species to another—and then from one part of the world to another. Travel, tourism and migration have made antibiotic resistance a major worldwide threat to public health.

Tomasz said we would have to "renegotiate our whole relationship to the prokaryotic world and cease this indiscriminate warfare."

James J. Hughes, director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), said his group was concerned about antibiotic resis-

2 SURFers explore science at RU

2 New director leads purchasing office

Youths explore science through Rockefeller's SURF Program

Nearly 20 undergraduates working in Rockefeller University labs this summer kicked off the annual Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow (SURF) Program and journal club with a luncheon last month.

"We hope you will enjoy the laboratory experience and the activities of our journal club," said Marjorie Russel, associate professor and dean of admissions, who introduced herself at the luncheon. "No doubt, you will gain a greater appreciation for the work that goes into publishing a scientific paper."

The students expressed enthusiasm for the coming months. "I'm looking forward to a summer of working in a lab and discussing a variety of science topics with fellow and graduate students," said Tien-An Yang, a New Yorker who, following work in the Fred Cross laboratory, will return to Yale University for her junior year. "I'm hoping the experience will help me to choose a future area of study. For now, I'm keeping an open mind."

In addition to working closely with a graduate student or post-doctoral fellow full time in the laboratory, the SURFers will join

other summer undergraduates and high school students in a weekly journal club directed by Rockefeller graduate students. The goal of the club is to teach the summer students how to read a scientific paper critically and present it to an audience.

"We want to provide an informal setting in which the students can learn these important skills and develop some self-confidence at the same time," said Thanos Dousmanis, an M.D.-Ph.D. student in the Gadsby lab who will be assisting students in the club.

Other graduate students helping with the journal club are Firdaus Dhabhar, Sabine Hilfiker-Rothenfluh, Elliott Kanner, Chris Min, Nina Papavasiliou, Adrian Rothenfluh, John Tran and Peter Weinstock.

The SURF program was established about nine years ago by an anonymous donor who provided funding to support 10 undergraduate students for summer work in Rockefeller laboratories. Other undergraduate students and high-school students are able to work at Rockefeller during the summer with funds from individual laboratories.



Marjorie Russel, associate professor and dean of admissions, speaks with students at a luncheon for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow Program last month

Panel meets on antibiotic resistance

(Continued from page 1)

tance and would be addressing the problem in a new report. The CDC wants to monitor trends in the emergence of resistance to antimicrobial drugs and develop rapid means to determine resistance so that physicians can adjust their prescribing patterns.

On the international front, the panelists noted that a major strain of multiply drug-resistant bacteria capable of causing pneumonia, middle ear infections and meningitis in children spread from Spain to Iceland, where, by 1992, 22 percent of diseases caused by these imported bacteria had acquired resistance. Professor Jacques Acar, president of European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, said that in France between 5 and 10 percent of pneumococci are resistant to penicillin and other antibiotics.

Robert Gaynes, chief of surveillance activity at the CDC, provided an update on nosocomial, or hospital-acquired, antibiotic-resistant pathogens. Gaynes showed that resistance is increasing in virtually all pathogen-antimicrobial combinations and is particularly high in intensive care units. He also found that resistance was higher in larger hospitals and that several pathogens will soon be or already are untreatable.

As an illustration of what the future may hold, Professor Richard Roberts, an infectious disease expert, displayed some chilling data from a metropolitan hospital which has experienced an outbreak of bacterial disease by a strain of *E. faecium* resistant even to the last available antibiotic, vancomycin.

Speakers also included members

from the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, American Society for Microbiology, International Society of Infectious Disease, Infectious Disease Society of America and New Jersey Medical School.

After lunch, the panelists discussed how to alert the nation and policy makers to the growing problem of antibiotic resistance and how best to combat it. Increased surveillance, screening, testing and reporting were suggested. The development of new vaccines and back-up drugs was also discussed.

One outcome of the meeting will be a report, including an action plan, which will be distributed in the fall by Tomasz. He said the university will continue to take a leadership position on this urgent scientific and public health issue.

New director heads purchasing office

Sonia Reynes has been appointed the new director of the Department of Purchase and Supply, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Fred Bohen announced recently.

"President Wiesel and I are pleased to have Sonia Reynes as a new and key member of our administrative team," Bohen said. "We ask each of you to work closely with her as she settles into these new administrative leadership responsibilities for one of the most important service and support functions of the university."

Reynes succeeds Thomas Fallon, who left the university last month to become director of purchasing at the University of Connecticut. As director, Reynes plans to sustain the department's timely and reliable service, maintain its responsiveness to the needs of customers and oversee its modernization through the use of on-line requisitioning and other administrative systems.

Reynes has worked in purchasing for more than a decade, holding progressively more responsible positions at Cornell University Medical College and, since 1988, at The



Sonia Reynes has been promoted to director of Purchase and Supply.

Rockefeller University. She earned a B.S. in biology with high honors at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1976, did two years of graduate work in human physiology, and has several years of work experience as a research assistant and senior research technician in various scientific laboratories.

Reynes can be reached at x8200 or Box 258.

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In memory of Zanvil A. Cohn: excerpts from service

The Rockefeller University held a memorial service on July 1 to honor the late Professor and Vice President for Medical Affairs Zanvil A. Cohn. Following are excerpts from the ceremony.

President Torsten Wiesel

Zan was a prince of a man who inspired all of us fortunate enough to have known him.

As vice president of medical affairs, Zan and I had ample opportunity to interact with each other. These interactions only increased my respect and admiration for Zan as a person and a natural leader. Even though we did not necessarily agree at times, he had a way—a persistent way—of convincing me. He became an invaluable colleague, who, together with Jules Hirsch, helped build up and strengthen the research and clinical activities associated with the Hospital.

Zan was a member of the university faculty for 35 years and he came to embody what this university stands for: *Pro Bono Humani Generis*.

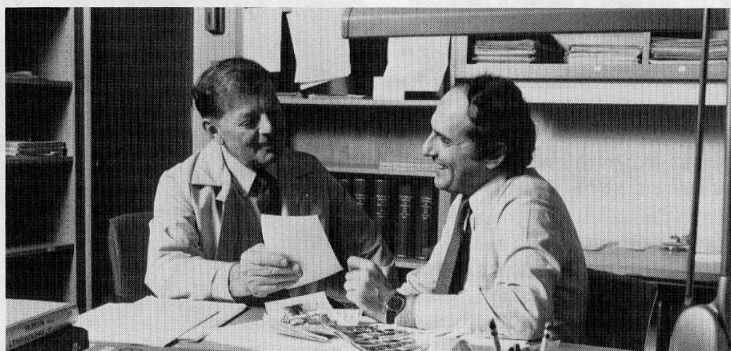
Rabbi Shlomo Balter

There are three ways in Jewish tradition in which a person expresses very deep sorrow. The person on the lowest level cries. The person on the middle level is silent. The person on the highest level knows how to turn their sorrow into a song. I think Dr. Zanvil Alexander Cohn's life was a song. His towering intellect, his incredible achievements, his great warmth and devotion to his beloved family and to his students. He was not only a father and a mentor to all of them, he was also a friend. His courage, self-sufficiency, his convictions and integrity, all these things will forever continue to be a song.

Zanvil Cohn's brother, Donald Cohn

There is some solace as Rabbi Balter said, that Zan left at the crest of the wave, and that he did. Zan never went over the other side of it and never got down into the trough. He died at the top of the crest, looking forward and in full control, a vigorous, healthy man. And I think in the future, that will be some solace to all of us.

Over the years, Zan was a tower of strength and love for his wife Fern, and Fern was the love and support that Zan needed in order to accomplish what he did. They had a wonderful life together with their



"What a model, what a scientist, what a citizen, what a human being, what a friend," said Professor and Senior Physician Ralph Steinman (right) of the late Zanvil Cohn.

children David and Ellen. It was just a wonderful close family.

I would like to say a few words about my big brother. When we were growing up, I hero-worshipped Zan. He was somebody that you could emulate. I don't know if most of you know this, but in high school, Zan was a great athlete. He was also the president of the student government at our high school. But it was not these accomplishments that were so impressive to me as a young brother.

What was impressive to me was Zan's self-sufficiency, his courage of his convictions even at a very young age. When other people wanted to play ball or do something else, Zan would say "Come on, let's go to Flushing Meadows and catch eels." So everybody else would go to play baseball and Zan and I would go to Flushing Meadows. These were some of the most important lessons I've learned in my life.

When Zan decided after careful consideration about a course of action, and it was the right course of action, he followed that course. He would not be dissuaded, he would not compromise, he had the courage of his convictions and, in his very quiet way, he would persist and very often would achieve the goals he had set out for himself. It was this integrity of his, as hard and clear and pure as a fine diamond which I remember so clearly and wanted to share with you.

Zan and I fished together since I was seven and he was ten. I'll never fish with him again, but he'll be with me every time I leave the dock.

Professor Emeritus Maclyn McCarty

To me, Zan was a dear friend and a treasured colleague, as he was indeed to a host of others here and throughout the rest of the world. At this time, this is foremost in my mind, even though it does not

speak for his towering stature as a medical scientist. The extraordinary depth and breadth of his scientific achievements seem secondary at the moment to those personal qualities that made him so great a human being. His stellar research in biomedical science and its application to problems of disease were carried out with a long sequence of colleagues and students, each of whom gained much from his scientific leadership, but at the same time enjoyed the benefits of his personal warmth, compassion, solicitude and superb judgment.

Associate Professor Gilla Kaplan

As I was standing in Zan's office early this morning, trying to remember where the books I was returning belonged, I found myself running my eyes over numerous objects we had acquired together over the last 20 years of our friendship and collaboration. Photographs of our travel, images of Egyptian and Hindu gods, oriental carpets, tankas, illustrations of the Ramayana, drawings of birds and fish and reprints, books and grants we had worked on together. I knew then it was Zan the person, the friend and the father I wanted to remember here today. The personal rather than the professional relationship. The warm, absolutely loyal, supportive, dependable and the fun-loving part of Zan.

In trying to relate the most special side of knowing Zan so well, for so long, I found myself thinking not only of myself but of so many of his other younger colleagues. Zan helped form new, young, dynamic, intellectually excited and very different scientists—all members of a growing family of individuals who shared in Zan's love of knowledge and exploration, a community of people related through Zan and the knowledge of his support. Because of what we received from Zan, I

know that the life and work we shared must somehow continue in his absence. I don't yet know how.

Professor and Senior Physician Ralph Steinman

Scientifically, Zan gave us a frame of reference that was broad and rich, within which we still function. Professionally he set standards that will always occupy us: the joys of collegiality, the elegant features of our profession, the importance of programs for graduate study and disease-oriented research, the central position of The Rockefeller University Hospital. Zan taught by example, not by edict, and we will always be caught up in trying to emulate that example. So in a very real sense, we are still together with Zan and for many of us, it will be forever.

One component of Zan's disposition was his balanced form of modesty. On the one hand, Zan didn't hide his pride in the exploits of his family, his institution, his students, his colleagues; but he just never mentioned himself. Another lovely feature of Zan was the way he exercised responsibility to people and to institutions. For Zan responsibility did not mean micro managing things. No, responsibility for Zan meant accessibility, guidance, support, and all over a long term.

A third very special feature of Zan was his incisiveness and brevity. Zan could get to the heart of the matter so quickly, and summarize it in a few crisp lines. For example when you went over data or planned an experiment with Zan, you would sit and discuss things for a while. Then he would go to the blackboard and pull it all together with a diagram or a short list. There it was!

One more feature of Zan's style was a genuine sense of respect for others. Zan loved his profession. He loved his colleagues. He loved this institution.

Now you take these features—modesty, responsibility, brevity and respect—and you flavor them à la Zanvil, and you have style, you have class. You then put these features in a person who was brilliant, who was experienced, who had wonderful judgment, and you have elegance, you have greatness. And then you package this all with those big eyes, a lovely stride, a graceful manner, with charm, confidence, courage, and warmth—wow, the English language just falls short. What a model, what a scientist, what a citizen, what a human being, what a friend.

Potpourri

New leave policy

The Family Leave Act, which provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for employees who need to care for a newborn, place a child in adoption or foster care, or care for an immediate family member, goes into effect Aug. 8. For more information, contact the Office of Personnel, x8300.

Cafeteria closing

Due to renovations, the cafeteria will be closed from Mon., Aug. 30 to Fri., Sept. 3.

Honor

A new chair in dermatology at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center was named after George W. Hambrick, Jr., Rockefeller adjunct faculty and visiting physician. A recent New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center reception celebrated the chair and honored Hambrick.

Seminar series

The Junior Faculty-Student Seminar Series offers exciting talks most Tuesdays at 11:00 A.M. Anyone who knows special speakers to invite for the upcoming academic year should send proposals to Claude Desplan—Box 151, x7965 or fax x8370—as soon as possible.

Experimental design software

Gosset, a general purpose program for designing experiments, is now installed on ROCKYS. This powerful program allows researchers to define many different kinds of variables. It also can be used for interpolation and extrapolation. One of the designers of the program, J.J.A. Sloane of the Math Sciences Research Center of AT&T, spoke

at the university in April to introduce Gosset and illustrate its use. An account on ROCKYS, which can be requested from the consultant, is needed to use the program. For more information, consult the manual in Smith Hall A21 or the consultant, x8940 or e-mail *consult*.

Workshop

Last month, the university hosted a two-day National Bilirubin Workshop co-sponsored with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche of Italy. Professor Attallah Kappas was one of the chairpersons. The participants discussed a range of basic and clinical research relating to severe jaundice in newborns with the intent of preparing therapeutic guidelines for the American Academy of Pediatrics. George Drummond and Timos Valaes presented the results of laboratory and clinical studies of inhibitors of bilirubin production carried out by the Kappas group. Other speakers included participants from neonatology centers in the United States, Italy, Greece and The Netherlands.

Wedding

Lisa Borg, guest investigator in the Kreek lab, married Dan Broe, an adjunct professor of geography at Hunter College, July 25. The ceremony was held in the Faculty Club.

Corporate Challenge

In the June 16 Corporate Challenge race, Rockefeller's men's A team placed 11th out of 637 teams overall, and second of 45 teams in the division; the men's B team placed 300th overall, and 24th in the divi-



Long-time neighbor Isabel Rackoff, who has attended all 164 Tri-Institutional Noon Recital performances, is honored for her 100th birthday at the last concert of the season at Rockefeller last month. Hugging her bouquet of roses, Rackoff quipped: "They say the first 100 are the hardest!"

sion. The women's A team placed 118th of 630 teams overall and 18th of 81 teams in the division. Out of 433 co-ed teams overall, Rockefeller's A team placed 43rd; the B team, 70th; the C team, 269th; the D team, 400th.

Appointments

Adjunct Faculty: Stewart Jaslove, Knight lab; Thomas Meier, Blobel lab; Hedy Teppler, Cohn-Steinman lab.

Visiting Associate Professor: Hideshi Yanase, Manning lab; Laurent Grelot, Wilson lab.

Research Associate: Allen Bienberg, Greengard lab; Marcello Caria; Mary S. Moore, Blobel lab; Katherine Sakmar, Cohn-Steinman lab.

Postdoctoral Associate: Koji Hisatake and Yuriko Suzuki, Roeder lab; Wanping Jiang, Cohn-Steinman lab; Akihisa Kimura, Asanuma lab; Bruce Mayer, Baltimore lab; Takuo Watanabe, Greengard lab; Qingling Yang, Gotschlich lab.

Postdoctoral Fellow: Franck Brunel and Tsutomu Ohta, Roeder lab; James Cheetham, Greengard lab; Ursula Halfter, Chua lab; Markus Heim, J. Darnell lab; Prem Sreenivasan, Tuomanen lab; Mark Weber, Gadsby lab; Shangwei Wu, Tomasz lab; Sung-ok Yoon and Kathy Zimmerman, Hatten lab; Ping Zhang, Chua lab.

Guest Investigators: Thomas Baukrowitz, Gadsby lab; Michael G.H. Betjes, Steinman lab; Satoshi Nonaka, Wilson lab; Liliana Salvadori, Zabriskie lab; Susanna Thornovist, Chait lab; Indu Tomar, G. Cross lab; Utaiwan Utaipat, Cohn-Steinman lab.

Departures

Visiting Assistant Professor: Laurent Grelot, Wilson lab.

Senior Research Associate: Kang Tsou, Greengard lab.

Research Associate: Wei-Qiang Gao, Hatten lab; Nikolai Soldatov, Blobel lab; Srinivasan Vijayasathiy, G. Cross lab.

Postdoctoral Associate: Mohit Bhatia, Manning lab; Padmaja Deval, Sakmar lab; Toshiya Funabashi, Pfaff lab; Krishna V. Kesari, J. Geliebter lab; Bai Lu, Greengard lab; Jennifer L. Martin, Kuriyan lab.

Postdoctoral Fellow: Alan Brunelle, Chua lab; Amelia Ribeiro De Jesus, G. Cross lab; Hans Frohnmeyer, Chua lab; Hideya Fukazawa, Chua lab; Satoshi Hasegawa, Roeder lab; Christine Heufler, Nussenzweig lab; Klaus Obermayer, Atick lab; Anna Roe, Wiesel lab; Amita Sehgal field, Young lab.

Guest Investigator: Sylvia de Pater, Chua lab; David P. Edwards, Knight lab; Shigeru Hashimoto, Roeder lab; Johan Memelink, Chua lab; Gail Mercurio, Sassa lab; Emmanuel Mertens, Müller lab; Hiroshi Murakami, Blobel lab; Yaw Loong Siow, Greengard lab; Yibing Yin, Tuomanen lab; Gheorghita Zbaganu, J. Cohen lab.



Charles Baird, supervisor of the Paint Shop, retired last month after 37 years of service. Also retiring from the shop was painter Oliver Farley.

Two nights for the price of one

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall guest rooms, available to visitors, friends and family of The Rockefeller University community, now include the following attractive features:

- A two-for-one special during weekends in August. Guests can book either Friday and Saturday, or Saturday and Sunday for the price of one night (\$100 for a standard room, or \$130 for a suite);
- Discounted weekly rates—\$500 for a standard room, \$650 for a suite;
- Payment by credit card, including American Express,

VISA or Master Card;

- Complimentary continental breakfast, local telephone service, color cable television and free parking are provided to all guests;
- Information on Rockefeller and available services, along with a pocket map of the campus and local neighborhood are provided;
- New signs, making the rooms more accessible.

To make reservations, call the Housing Management Office—now located on the third floor of Scholars Residence—at x8500.