

# Celebrating the legacy of an IACUC giant: Jerald Silverman, DVM, MS. March 23, 1942 – November 14, 2020

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Jerald Silverman, DVM, MS. Jerry succumbed to the dreadful COVID-19 on November 14, 2020.

I first met Jerry face to face probably in the early 90s when he joined the now defunct Hahnemann University (HU) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1994 HU became Allegheny University of Health Science (AUHS), which in turn became part of Drexel University in 1998. At Drexel, Jerry was the Assistant Vice President and Director of University Laboratory Animal Resources as well as an adjunct professor in the Department of Pathology. Following the professional path of his beloved wife Lisa, who had accepted a position near Worcester, Massachusetts, Jerry joined the University of Massachusetts in 2002 as the Director of the Department of Animal Medicine and Professor of Pathology and as an adjunct professor at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University. Jerry retired in 2017 and remained an emeritus professor at the University of Massachusetts.

Jerry received his degree in vertebrate zoology and veterinary medicine from Cornell University (1959-1966), adding a master's degree in non-profit organization management from the New School for Social Research in 1983. He was a diplomate of American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, a past president of American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners, and a full member of the American Association of Cancer Research. In 2011 he was honored by the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research for his work as a teacher, mentor, author, and strong advocate for laboratory animal science. Over the years, he also served on numerous professional and community committees and editorial boards.

In person, Jerry was tall, lanky and a tad gruff — a true diamond with a rough edge. He was a great teacher and prolific writer, with an innate ability to tease the experts with questions about a problem or a scenario he had created to educate the IACUC community. With the intent to gain further insights, Jerry sought opinions from experts in academia and regulatory agencies in order to present both side of the argument for a particular problem or a scenario. Jerry



Dr. Jerald Silverman, DVM, MS. Credit: University of Massachusetts

was, however, never afraid of expressing his own opinions. Whether there was grudging agreement or disagreement, Jerry would always come back with a new question or a new scenario.

Reading Jerry's "Protocol Review," a column in *Lab Animal* he wrote diligently from 1988 till to his death, was enlightening to the reader. This column drew opinions about a hypothetical scenario from multiple experts from various institutions and invited responses from regulation and policy experts in USDA/APHIS/AC and NIH/OLAW. "A Word from OLAW and USDA," the response from regulatory and policy experts, educated the reader on the regulatory issues raised in the scenario. This was a masterful idea of Jerry to engage USDA and OLAW on the interpretation of the regulations, policies and guidance to IACUC functions. Many of the scenarios occurred at the fictitious "Great Eastern University," and involved various made-up IACUC Chairs and experts — at national conferences, those names always brought a good laughter from the audience.

Over his career, Jerry published approximately 60 peer reviewed scientific articles that covered topics ranging from cancer research to IACUC operations. He authored approximately 25 books and book chapters, including the "The IACUC Handbook" and "Managing the Laboratory Animal Facility." The latter was the culmination of his many years of experience managing research animal facilities. Even today, the book — now in its third edition — helps animal facilities managers understand and navigate their unique responsibilities, which include accessing needs of the facilities, establishing goals, and effectively communicating with laboratory animal users and others.

The origin of "The IACUC Handbook" was an interesting proposition from all three of the editors — Jerry, myself, and Mark Suckow. When AUHS was on the rise, many researchers were being recruited from various institutions. Each of those recruits had their own slanted opinion on how the IACUCs from their previous institution had opined differently on their protocols compared to the IACUC at AUHS. Those inconsistencies were glaring, and something needed to be done. Our discussions on this culminated in a book, first published in 2000, to test and bring out the best, most consistent practices on questions that confronted the IACUC.

The idea was to develop a series of questions pertinent to IACUC functions, seek expert opinions from subject matter and regulatory and policy experts, and provide succinct answers to those questions. Furthermore, informal surveys were conducted that provided interesting views of various IACUCs and how they approached different issues. These survey results became an excellent resource to IACUCs, enabling them to put into effect additional opinions from other institutions. Several improvements were made to the second and third editions of the book, published in 2006 and 2014, that introduced contemporary issues and answers. As the chief editor, Jerry invested enormous amount of time to make the Handbook a house-hold name in the IACUC community. Without his passion,

commitment and dedication to serve the IACUC community, this would have been just an idea; with Jerry at the helm, it became a book used by most IACUCs around the world.

Sitting with Jerry in an IACUC meeting was an interesting experience by itself. Though many research animal users felt his presence and his questioning and criticisms to be intimidating, others appreciated his knowledge and the ways he improved a study using humane principles

and methods. When you lose a person like Jerry, it's sad for the entire IACUC community. Jerry was a maverick and a trailblazer, and he dedicated his life for the good of the IACUC.

Jerry leaves behind his cherished wife Lisa Barber, a practicing veterinarian, his beautiful daughter Genna (Genevieve), and his two sons, Daniel and Adam. We and the entire IACUC world wish Jerry's family peace and strength to deal with this dreadful tragedy.

May Jerry rest in peace. God bless Jerry's family. □

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