

Donald Dubin (1932-2022)

By Ruth Dubin

Donald Theodore Dubin, MD, Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, died on February 28, 2022, after succumbing to pneumonia. Donald was born in 1932, in Brooklyn, New York. In 1952 he obtained his undergraduate degree in three years from Harvard University, and then went on to Columbia University P&S for medical school, where he was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. He completed his fellowship in infectious diseases at Harvard Medical School in 1962 and in the same year started there as Instructor in the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology. In 1967 he joined Rutgers Medical School (now Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School). Donald retired in 2006 with the title Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Donald's research initially focused on characterizing the structure and function of ribosomal RNA. He subsequently demonstrated that bacteria such as *Staph. aureus* develop resistance to antibiotics due to alterations in ribosomal RNA that are inducible by erythromycin. During and after the AIDS epidemic he studied genetic mutations in the human immunodeficiency virus that allow it to evade anti-retrovirals, and he directed the RWJMS Viral Culture and HIV facility. He continued his research on antibiotic resistance in *Staph* isolates, identifying multiple genetic variants that contribute to antibiotic resistance. Over the 40 years that he had an active basic science lab, he mentored approximately 100 doctoral and post-doctoral scientists.

Donald was dedicated to his UMDNJ medical students. He was the course director for Microbiology for 25 years. Dr. Cynthia Delgado, now Associate Professor of Nephrology at University California, San Francisco, joined his lab for a summer research project as a medical student. She co-led the lab's research seminar with him, as he supported her in acquiring both leadership and research skills. He served on the medical school admissions committee later in his career. He proudly remarked that the applicants he reviewed were of the same caliber as those applying to Harvard, and he evaluated every application with keen interest into the applicant's merit and achievements as well as the context of his or her life circumstances.

His advice to his youngest daughter entering college was, 'Be sure you have time to sit in the courtyard and daydream.' Work ethic and imagination were his indelible ideals, as were devotion to family and prescription of humor to ease life's difficulties. He moved to California in 2010 with his wife so that he could live with and provide full-time care for her until her death. Donald is survived by his three daughters, Margaret, Louise and Ruth, and three grandchildren.