

In Memoriam: Jerome S. Brody, M.D., A *Red Journal* Founder

Jerome (Jerry) S. Brody was born December 6, 1934, in Chicago and passed away at his home in Boston on January 22, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Anne d'Avenas, and her family; his daughters Lisa, Karen, and Marion; five grandchildren; his brother Alan; and a large extended professional family who trained and worked with him at Boston University. Jerry received his M.D. from the University of Illinois in 1959, followed by training in Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Diseases at Michael Reese Hospital, all in Chicago. After service in the Armed Forces and training in Colorado and Oklahoma, his early professional career led Jerry to the University of Pennsylvania, where his love for research bloomed while working under the direction of Arthur Dubois. He was recruited to Boston City Hospital and Boston University in 1973 by Gordon Snider. Jerry was Chief of Pulmonary Medicine at Boston City Hospital and subsequently the University Hospital (now Boston Medical Center) from 1973 to 1986, Director of the Boston University Pulmonary Center from 1986 to 2009, and Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Medicine from 1993 to 2001. In these roles, Jerry made a powerful and lasting positive impact on his academic home, commemorated with an annual lectureship and an endowed professorship in his name.

Jerry was the ultimate lung scientist, who always strived to ask big questions and solve major problems. In Philadelphia, he studied lung size and function in patients with growth hormone excess and absence and later in patients who live at high altitude. In Boston, he complemented his patient studies with animal models, becoming fascinated by post-pneumonectomy lung growth in the 1970 s, birthing the theme that the lungs carried the capacity to regenerate. This led him to dive deeply into the processes of normal lung development, recognizing this biology as underpinning lung regeneration as well as many pulmonary diseases. He developed a passion for cell biology and used then-emerging tools in cell culture



Figure 1. Jerry Brody in the lab in Boston University Pulmonary Center. Courtesy of Kalman Zabarsky/Boston University Photography.

and microscopy to characterize cellular constituents of the lung. As molecular biology advanced toward higher-throughput modalities, Jerry was among the first to use gene profiling in human lungs, demonstrating that a field of injury existed in lungs exposed to cigarette smoke. Along the way, he developed a lung-based bioinformatics program, partnering with Boston University's new computational mathematicians in the late 1990 s. His studies with Avi Spira on epithelial cell profiles are now used to predict lung cancer in remote pulmonary nodules from gene profiles in the central airways (marketed commercially as Percepta). His science was groundbreaking and consistently ahead of his time.

Jerry was a visionary and a builder who brought people together and brought out the best in them. When the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute first offered support for institutional training grants, Jerry began a T32 in 1975 called "Biology of the Lung: A Multidisciplinary Approach." Jerry proposed to train M.D. fellows side by side with Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows, to give Ph.D.s perspective on the diseases they model in the laboratory and to give M.D.s the scientific rigor they need to make sentinel discoveries. This T32 continues today, now funded through 50 years. Beginning in the 1980 s, he established a P01-supported research program in lung developmental biology based on epithelial repair and regeneration. Perhaps his greatest impact as an enthusiastic member of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) was the establishment of the *Red Journal* in the 1980 s as a forum for publishing the best lung basic science. As stated by Jerry and then ATS President Gerald Turino, "if the ATS is to maintain its role as a leader in education, research, and patient care, it must capture this science for its members and attract these scientists to its organization. Various means of accomplishing this goal have been considered, but in the end the most effective approach was felt to be the establishment of a second, basic science-oriented journal" (1). Jerry became a founding editor of the ATS's new *American Journal of Respiratory Molecular and Cell Biology*, along with Robert Senior and Mary Williams. Jerry's devotion to science, and lung science in particular, was a driving force for the creation of this venue where like-minded individuals could share their discoveries in a journal dedicated to this fast-moving discipline. The *Red Journal* has become everything Jerry envisioned.

Jerry inspired countless trainees to pursue medical and research careers and numerous colleagues to stretch the boundaries of their science. He was an outstanding physician, scientist, educator, mentor, leader, and collaborator and the ultimate promoter of lung science. Jerry will always be remembered as a visionary who had a profound ability to see the big picture and create partnerships to solve important problems. He was a frequent first in science and is first in our memory. ■

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