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ADVANCING GLOBAL HEALTH SINCE 1903

James L. Hardy
1932-1997

James L. Hardy was a highly respected scientist and teacher at UC Berkeley for 35 years. He was a leader in research on vector-borne viral diseases (arbovirology) and a distinguished professor in the School of Public Health from 1966-1996.

He was born on July 30, 1932, in Fort Benton, Montana. He graduated from the University of Montana in 1954 and stayed there to complete the MA degree in 1956. His thesis was done at the Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Laboratory, National Institutes of Health in Hamilton, Montana, under the tutelage of Carl Eklund, an early pioneer in research on encephalitis viruses, poliomyelitis, and prions. His thesis developed a new test for the diagnosis of clinical cases of western equine encephalomyelitis and St. Louis encephalitis (both epidemic diseases at that time in western North America).

On completion of the MA, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps and assigned to the 406th Medical General Laboratory in Tokyo, Japan. There he studied Japanese B encephalitis virus, an always endemic mosquito-borne disease that sometimes reaches epidemic proportions in Asia. He worked under W. F. Scherer and others who were pioneers in arbovirology. After completing his stint in the army, Hardy followed Scherer to the University of Minnesota and completed his PhD under him in 1962 with further research on Japanese encephalitis. In 1962, Jim was awarded a post-doctoral training grant from the National Institutes of Health and elected to move to the Arbovirus Research Unit at the School of Public Health as an Assistant Research Virologist. Hardy's research and demonstrated abilities as a teacher led to his appointment as Assistant Professor of Medical Virology in 1966 and to advancement to Professor in 1975. His research and development of an outstanding teaching program in microbiology, with an emphasis on virology, attracted many students. He trained a new generation of virologists who are now widely distributed in the US and abroad. Hardy was a conscientious, gifted, teacher who cared deeply about students. He was appointed Chair of the Program in Biomedical Laboratory Services, 1976-1980, of the Department of Biomedical and Environmental Health Sciences, 1980-1985, Committees on Space Planning and Revision of the Graduate Programs in Infectious Diseases, and finally Associate Dean for Academic and Space Planning in 1994. The Chancellor presented the Berkeley Citation to him in 1994 and stressed his role on campus over many years as an advisor while serving on committees for development of the Northwest Animal Facilities, Animal Use, Development of the Biological Sciences Curricula, Functions of the campus Hybridization Facility, and chair of a campus-wide Biohazard Use Committee.

Hardy held many consultantships with governmental agencies. In the National Institutes of Health these included the Research Resources Branch, two study sections of the Division of Research Grants and the National Cancer Institute. He was a program reviewer for the Centers for Disease Control of the United

States Public Health Service, an advisor for the Research Development Command of the U.S. Army, and on the advisory board to the Naval Bioscience Laboratory.

Hardy's research resulted in over 130 scientific papers that focused on the natural history of western equine encephalomyelitis and St. Louis encephalitis and 18 other mosquito-borne viruses that had emerged as new infectious agents in California. This research led to his election to fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology in 1979. The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene acknowledged Dr. Hardy's contributions by selecting him for the Bailey K. Ashford Award in 1977 as their outstanding scientist under 45 years of age. In 1990, the Society honored him again by presentation of the Richard Moreland Taylor Award for outstanding contributions to the field of arbovirology over a significant period of time. The James L. Hardy Award was established by the American Committee on Arthropod-Borne Viruses of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1997. This award is to encourage and acknowledge research by a young scientist in the field of arbovirology. It is combined with the William F. Scherer Award, as Scherer was Hardy's PhD thesis chairman.