

**ARONSON, STANLEY
MAYNARD M.D.**

92, died January 28, 2015, at Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island, with his wife, Gale, at his side. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of the late Elihu and Lena (Hasner) Aronson.

A graduate of the City College of New York, New York University Medical School, (M.D., Class of 1947), and the Harvard University School of Public Health (MPH, 1981) he was a distinguished scientist, educator, mentor, civic leader, author and artist (as a painter, woodworker, sculptor and stone mason) and beloved teacher and mentor to legions of Brown and SUNY medical students.

The author of more than 400 scientific papers and of textbooks and journalistic collections, Dr. Aronson's accomplishments include his investigative work (at Columbia University, 1951-55) identifying the pathways by which poliomyelitis and certain other viruses reach the brain, and writing the first published work on brown fat in the human body.

During his tenure at the State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center, (1953-1969), as a neuropathologist, professor and assistant dean, he developed the aldolase test -- the established diagnostic procedure for the early diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy -- and conducted groundbreaking work in Tay Sachs disease, and related hereditary disorders, as well as in Lewy Body Dementia (1958).

In 1969, Dr. Aronson was named the founding dean of Brown University Medical School, which he led in 1970-81. There, he fostered the careers of many of this generation's most prominent physicians.

Among his many other accomplishments as dean, he established the Brown-Dartmouth medical-program partnership and the Toogaloo College-Brown University program aimed at identifying students who would become physicians.

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ARONSON
STANLEY

Dr. Aronson served many international, national and local organizations, including the National Institutes of Health, The Miriam Hospital and Butler Hospital. He wrote for, and edited for, many professional journals. And for 23 years, he was a weekly columnist for The Providence Journal; many of his essays in that paper were reprinted in other newspapers around America and beyond.

Among his many honors was the naming of the Stanley Aronson Chair for Neurodegenerative Diseases at Butler Hospital and the Stanley M. Aronson Fund for Research and Innovation at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Aronson was a co-founder of Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island, in 1974, and the Interfaith HealthCare Ministries. He served as president of the Jewish Home for the Aged and was active in many other Jewish organizations. In the 1980's and '90's, he was a consultant for the Rockefeller Foundation's international medical epidemiology programs and for the Liaison Committee of Medical Education, for which he inspected and evaluated medical schools around the world.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughters, Sarah C. Aronson, M.D., of Cleveland, and her spouse, Dr. Virginia Ayers; Susan Symons, of Dallas; grandchildren Laura Cohen and John Symons, M.D., and Sofia, Stanley Max and Sutton Ayers-Aronson, and six great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Lisa Aronson and the husband of the late Betty Aronson.

A private funeral was held at Temple Beth El in Providence. A memorial service will be held at Brown University in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Home and Hospice of Rhode Island, the Stanley Aronson Chair for Neurodegenerative Diseases at Butler Hospital, or to the charity of your choice.

PASSAGES

Dr. Stanley Aronson, founding dean of Brown medical school

The prolific writer, artist, intellectual and Providence Journal columnist dies at 92

By G. WAYNE MILLER
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

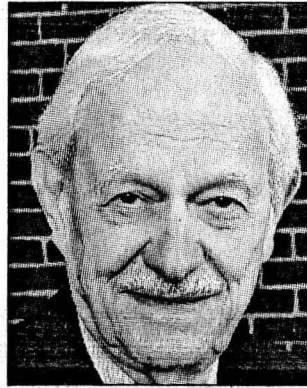
PROVIDENCE — Dr. Stanley M. Aronson, founding dean of Brown University's medical school, prolific writer, artist and intellectual, and a leading figure in American medicine, died Wednesday at the Philip Hultar Inpatient Center, part of Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island. Aronson was a founder of the hospice organization and served on its board.

Aronson, a weekly columnist for The Providence Journal for many years, writing about a broad range of medical and scientific topics, always with precision and insight, was 92.

"Stan was a giant of medical education, at Brown University and elsewhere, a distinguished leader in global public health, especially in developing nations, and an elegant, learned and delightfully idiosyncratic writer," said Robert Whitcomb, writer, editor and blogger, and former Journal editorial pages editor.

Edward C. Achorn, The Journal's current editorial pages editor, said: "Each column was on a different topic. It required a lot of research. It wasn't just on the top of his head. He had this passion for knowledge that continued until the very end."

Achorn recalled visiting Aronson at his house just two weeks ago. "He was talking to



Dr. Stanley M. Aronson was a leading figure in American medicine.

me about how he would, instead of watching TV, go look at the Internet or the books on his shelves and think about what to write about," Achorn said. "He was fascinated by virtually everything."

"In conversations with Stan during the last several years, I came to understand how pleased he was with the growth and development of the medical school he did so much to create," Brown President Christina Paxson said in Brown's tribute to Aronson. "His natural humility prevented him from taking credit, but Brown's medical school and many of the statewide improvements in medical care delivery that grew along with it began with Stan's arrival in Providence."

Said Dr. Joseph Friedman, professor of neurology and the Stanley Aronson Chair in Neurodegenerative Disorders at Butler Hospital in Providence: "I will always remember Stan as the embodiment of a polymath, a person

who knows everything about everything, yet he was caring, humble and anxious to help others."

Aronson was the author of more than a dozen books and some 400 articles for medical journals.

Aronson's last Journal column, "Where are aromas from yesteryear?," was published Monday. The week before, the paper published "A move to document the causes of death," an elegant essay on the history of mankind's chronicling of death. It ended:

"In the words of an anonymous scribe, 'We come hither; we know not why; and we then go hence, we know not when, to join the majority.'"

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of Elihu and Lena Aronson, Aronson graduated from City College of New York and New York University's medical school. At the age of 60, when he retired as dean of what is now called Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Aronson enrolled at Harvard University's School of Public Health and earned a master's degree.

He leaves his wife, Gale Aronson; two daughters, Dr. Sarah Aronson and Susan Symons; five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Lisa Aronson.

A memorial service will be held on a date, as yet unspecified, in the near future.

With reports from Linda Borg and Richard Salit

gwmiller@providencejournal.com
(401) 277-7380
On Twitter: @GWayneMiller

PASSAGES



A giant of medical education

Dr. Stanley M. Aronson, founding dean of

Brown University's medical school, Journal columnist, prolific writer, artist and intellectual, has died. **A13**

4-27-15

PROVIDENCE

ARONSON, STANLEY
1922-2015
MEMORIAL SERVICE
Founding Dean,
Brown Medical School
Weekly OpEd columnist,
Providence Journal
Memorial Service at
First Unitarian Church
of Providence,
One Benevolent Street,
Friday, May 1, 4:00pm