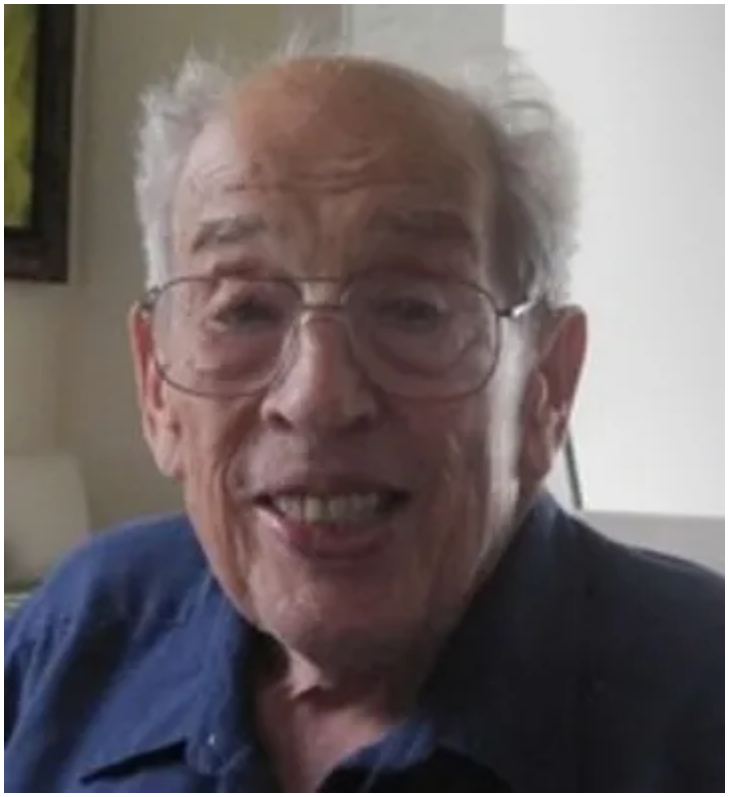
Frank George Rothman



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Frank George Rothman of Wayne, Pennsylvania, 92, formerly of Naples, Florida and Providence, Rhode Island, died at home on Sunday, October 23rd, 2022. Frank was predeceased by his wife, Joan T.K. Rothman of Naples. He is survived by his 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Frank was born in February of 1930, in Budapest, Hungary. He was the son of Stephen Rothman and Irene Rothman (nee Manheim). With his parents and brother, Frank emigrated to the United States in 1938 to Chicago where his father, a dermatologist, had an academic

appointment at the University of Chicago. Frank attended the University of Chicago and received his Bachelor of Science degree at the age of 18 in 1948, and his Masters of Science in Chemistry, in 1951. He attended Harvard University and received his Doctorate in Chemistry in 1955 where Robert Woodward was his thesis advisor. He met a fellow graduate student while there, Joan Kiernan, and fell in love. They were married in 1953.

In 1954-1956, he served in the Army where he was assigned to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, DC. After the army, he and his wife and young family moved to Madison, Wisconsin where he held a postdoctoral fellowship in the Departments of Chemistry and Bacteriology, University of Wisconsin. During that time, he attended a conference on the relatively new field of Molecular Biology. He became so excited about its possibilities that he decided to switch his career focus. He received a National Science Foundation post-doctoral fellowship and worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) to broaden his training into molecular genetics.

In 1961, he joined the faculty of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island in the Division of Biology and Medicine. At Brown, Frank taught biochemistry, genetics, and molecular biology at all undergraduate and graduate levels. He received the Medical Science Students' Award for Excellence in Teaching multiple times. Among numerous administrative assignments, he chaired the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and was a founding director of the Graduate Program in Molecular and Cell Biology.

In 1984, he was named Dean of Biology where he was responsible for all education and faculty in the program. In 1990, he was appointed Provost, the university's Chief Academic Officer where he was involved in all institutional issues involving undergraduate, graduate and preclinical medical education.

Frank's research focused on the regulation of gene expression in bacteria and cellular slime molds was funded by nine consecutive grants from the National Science Foundation between 1961 and 1984. In 1987, he expanded his area of research to the biology of aging and studied the life cycle of the nematode. Journals in which he was published include the Journal of Molecular Biology, Genetics, and Cell. He was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1993.

He retired from Brown in 1997. As someone who had taught for more than 30 years, he was committed to creating ways for teachers to teach science better. He worked with Project Kaleidoscope, a leading national organization that works to improve curricula and facilities for STEM teaching. In 1999, he coauthored Then, Now, and in the Next Decade: A Commentary on Strengthening Undergraduate Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology Education.

Through his interest in the biology of aging he became aware of Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome, an extremely rare, often fatal, progressive genetic disorder in children. Frank

connected with the Progeria Research Foundation and worked as a member of their Medical Research Committee, and a co-organizer of five national/international workshops. Working with these two organizations gave him great joy.

Frank was passionate about civil rights, a pacifist, and politically active throughout his life. An avid storyteller, he was curious about many subjects and was a strong believer in lifelong learning. At the time of his death, he was preparing a lecture about his experiences working on an archaeological dig in Israel with his wife, Joan.

He enjoyed photography, soccer, both coaching and watching, studying Spanish, tennis, both playing and watching, and travel. He loved all kinds of music, good food and jigsaw puzzles. He was kind, funny, thoughtful and generous. He is missed greatly.

He loved nothing better than schmoozing with friends and family, hearing and telling stories - sometimes more than once. To honor his memory, a celebration of his life will be held on October 27th, 2023 at 4:00 PM in Manning Chapel at Brown University, Providence, RI. All are invited to join us to tell stories. The celebration will be virtual as well as in person. For more information about the celebration or to rsvp, please Maria Rothman Boyd at mrothman123@yahoo.com

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to either the Coalition for Immokalee Workers (https://ciw-online.org/) or the Progeria Research Foundation https://www.progeriaresearch.org/).

Posted online on August 22, 2023
Published in Providence Journal

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