

Obituaries

Dr. Milton R.J. Salton



MILTON R. J. SALTON, PH.D., professor emeritus of microbiology, died on April 14, 2008. Dr. Salton was professor of microbiology from 1964 to 1993 and chairman of the department from 1964 to 1990. A native of Australia, Dr. Salton received his bachelor's degree from the University of Sydney. After earning doctoral degrees from St. John's Col-

lege in Cambridge and the University of Cambridge, he spent five years conducting post-doctoral research at Cambridge and the University of California. He then served on the faculties of other universities.

In 1964—at the age of 43—Dr. Salton was recruited by NYU's chairman of biochemistry, Nobel laureate Severo Ochoa, M.D., to head the department of microbiology. An expert on the microbial cell wall, Dr. Salton was

one of the first to utilize detergents to solubilize bacterial membrane proteins. His work helped to determine the nature of the gram stain and the mechanism of action of penicillin on the bacterial cell wall.

Dr. Salton is survived by Joy Salton, his wife of 56 years; two sons, Dr. Stephen Salton ('83) and Alastair Salton; and two grandsons. ●

Dr. Stephen B. Colvin



STEPHEN B. COLVIN, M.D., founding chairman of cardiothoracic surgery, which he led until last year, died at NYU Langone Medical Center on March 8. He was 64 and had recently been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

An expert in congenital heart surgery, Dr. Colvin was deeply committed to improving surgical techniques, some of which would revolutionize cardiac surgery. He was world renowned for his pioneering work in mitral valve repair and in perfecting minimally invasive methods, making it possible for complex, life-saving surgery to be performed with less pain, less scarring, and speedier recoveries. With his colleague Aubrey Galloway, M.D., the Seymour Cohn Professor and chairman of cardiothoracic surgery, Dr. Colvin co-invented the Colvin-Galloway Future Band, one of several types of prosthetic rings used to reshape a damaged mitral valve.

Dr. Colvin was one of the first cardiac surgeons to employ intra-operative video photography. By sharing through satellite conferences he helped invent, he also helped save the lives of tens of thousands worldwide.

During his 30-year career at NYU, Dr. Colvin performed an estimated 10,000 heart surgeries. He operated on patients as young as one day and as old as 98, often saying that he liked to “take care of the

more difficult and challenging things that people have wrong with their hearts.”

A native New Yorker, Dr. Colvin grew up in Forest Hills, Queens. After graduating from New York University in 1964, he earned his medical degree at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. He completed five years of surgical training and two years of specialized training in cardiothoracic surgery at NYU, followed by a fellowship at the Na-

tional Heart and Lung Institute of the National Institutes of Health. He joined the school's faculty in 1978.

Under Dr. Colvin's leadership, the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery grew to perform more than 1,800 cases annually at three hospitals, and expanded to include programs in pediatric cardiac surgery and high-risk adult surgery. He also built one of the nation's finest research and training programs.

Working through nonprofit organizations, Dr. Colvin performed heart surgery on desperately ill children across the globe. He was a cofounder, in 2001, of Project Kids Worldwide, a nonprofit organization that provides life-saving surgery and improved medical treatment for impoverished children with congenital and acquired heart disease from medically underserved regions.

Dr. Colvin is survived by his second wife, Helene, a nurse practitioner at the Medical Center; two grown daughters and three grandchildren; and a four-year-old son and two-year-old daughter. ●



Dr. Randolph Chase, Jr.

RANDOLPH M. CHASE, JR., an infectious disease expert who was a member of faculty for more than 40 years until his retirement in 2005, died on May 16 in Manhattan. He was 79 years old. One of the first tenured African-American physicians on the faculty, Dr. Chase helped to establish the university's Institute of African-American Affairs, a scholarly center founded in 1969.

A native of Brooklyn, Dr. Chase was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of New York University (1950). After serving in the Korean War, he entered NYU School of Medicine. An exemplary student, he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha and received his medical degree in 1958. After completing a residency in medicine at Bellevue, he conducted research in immunology and infection at The Rockefeller University.

Appointed assistant professor of medicine at the School of Medicine in 1964, Dr. Chase soon became director of the School's clinical microbiological labora-

tory. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Claudia L. Dade, an internist. He is also survived by two sons, two daughters, six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. ●

Faculty Deaths

Bernard Beer, M.D., adjunct professor of psychiatry
John R. Finlay, M.D., clinical professor of ophthalmology
Andrew G. Franks, M.D., clinical professor of dermatology
John G. Gianutsos, Ph.D., assistant professor of rehabilitation medicine
Albert Hornblass, M.D., clinical professor of ophthalmology
Joshua Lynfield, M.D., clinical professor of pediatrics
Peter B. Neubauer, M.D., clinical professor of psychiatry
George L. Nicklin, M.D., clinical associate professor of psychiatry
Norton Spritz, M.D., J.D., professor of medicine
Boardman C. Wang, M.D., clinical professor of anesthesiology