

Eugene D. Weinberg

Professor Weinberg obtained his formal education at the University of Chicago; he received the B.S. in 1942, the M.S. in 1948, and the Ph.D. in 1950. Shortly thereafter he joined the Indiana University microbiology department, where he rose through the academic ranks and was promoted to professor in 1961. Since then he has held a joint appointment in the Department of Biology and in the Medical Sciences Program, where he is head of the microbiology section.

Professor Weinberg retired in 1990 from the U. S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Reserve, where he held the rank of scientist director (06). He has also served as a Traveling Lecturer for both the American Society for Microbiology and the Australian Society for Microbiology.

Gene has published more than 140 full-length scientific papers concerned with the roles of trace metals and metal ion-binding agents in microbial physiology and nutrition and in chemotherapy and nutritional immunity. Two of these papers have been designated Benchmark Papers in Microbiology. Gene has also published on antimicrobial compounds, preservatives, and environmental control of secondary metabolism. Many contemporary colleagues know him mostly from scholarly reviews that point out the importance of trace metals (such as iron) as factors in neoplastic processes, or in the constant warfare waged between microbes that cause disease and the animals that are their potential hosts.

Gene is the recipient of the first Academic Scientific Achievement Award of the Indiana Branch of the American Society for Microbiology, an honor of which he may be especially proud because it represents the esteem in which his colleagues statewide hold his career accomplishments. He is also the 1991-92 Indiana University nominee for the Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Achievement in Health. Gene's professional recognition during 1991 alone has been both broad in scope and international in character: he was invited to present a seminar at the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropology, where a symposium was also dedicated to his honor; a plenary lecture at the Tenth International Conference on Iron Proteins at Oxford University; a lecture at the Third International Conference on Hemochromatosis at Heinrich Heine University in Germany; and a plenary lecture at the Third International Conference on Microbial Iron Transport at Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg, France.

Gene has been unusually active in service both to his university and to his profession. He has been president of the IU chapters of Sigma Xi, the American Association of University Professors, and the Indiana branch of the American Society of Microbiology. He has also served as chair of the Bloomington campus Board of Review, Health Service Policy Committee, Environmental Health and Safety Committee, Budgetary Affairs Committee, and Distinguished Research and Award Committee; and of the IU Honorary Degrees Committee. From 1978 to 1980 he served as associate dean in the Office of Research and Graduate Development.

Gene has good reason to be proud of his teaching accomplishments. He has taught classes in microbiology at levels ranging from prenursing and general biology to medical and graduate study, and in sizes ranging from small seminars to more than three hundred students at a time. His informal, conversational style of lecturing is well-appreciated by students. They are also grateful for his carefully prepared handouts; these include notes and illustrative material from the literature, which enables the students to concentrate on Gene's presentation. Gene has also chaired the committees of thirty-three master's and doctoral students in microbiology. He received the AMOCO Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1974.

Gene is known to many in Bloomington through Beth Shalom, which he has served as president, and through his work with Planned Parenthood. Gene's wife, Fran, is known to many generations of Bloomington children and their parents from her work as teacher in Monroe County schools, up to her recent retirement from Childs School. Gene and Fran's children—Barb, Marjorie, Geoff, and Mike—all grew up in Bloomington.

Colleagues, neighbors, and friends all warmly wish Gene and Fran a most happy retirement. Knowing their penchant for activity and involvement, we are sure it will not be a sedentary one.

George D. Hegeman