



June 26, 2017

## William Jackson (Jack) Schull — In Memoriam

We are saddened to announce that one of the world's greatest scientists and experts on radiation genetics, Jack Schull, died on June 20, 2017 at the age of 95.

Jack was born March 17, 1922 in Missouri and spent much of his early life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He received his Ph.D. in Genetics in 1949 from Ohio State University and was influenced early in his career by several of the pioneers in modern genetics such as James F. Crow.

After University, Jack went to Japan with James V. (Jim) Neel and became Head, Department of Genetics, Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC), Hiroshima, 1949 to 1951. Jim and Jack are credited with developing the genetics program at ABCC that led to the surprising conclusion that no significant heritable effects of preconception radiation exposure occurred among 70,000 children born to atomic-bomb survivors. These findings were validated in a large international study of the children of cancer survivors exposed to radiotherapy where Jack was the primary advisor and collaborator. Throughout his career, Jack returned regularly to Japan and continued his research into radiation genetics and, and served as Director (1986 to 1987, 1990 to 1991), Chief of Epidemiology and Statistics (1978 to 1980), and Chief of Research (1996 to 1997) at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Hiroshima.

Jack served as a Council member 1984 to 1990 and was elected as a Distinguished Emeritus Member in 1990. He served on the NCRP 23rd Annual Meeting Program Committee (1987) entitled *New Dosimetry at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and its Implications for Risk Estimates*. He was a member of Scientific Committee 1-2 that wrote NCRP Report No. 115, *Risk Estimates for Radiation Protection* (1993).

Jack also served on ICRP's Committee 1 (Health Effects) from 1978 to 1993. He was chair of the Task Group that prepared ICRP Publication 49 on *Developmental Effects of Irradiation on the Brain of the Embryo and Fetus* in 1986. Others on Committee 1 included a gallery of the most influential scientists/leaders of that time: Warren K. Sinclair (Chair), Seymour Abrahamson, Gerrit W. Barendsen, Jacob I. Fabrikant, R.J. Michael Fry, Lars-Erik Holm, Albrecht Kellerer, Charles E. Land, Baruch Modan, K. Sankaranarayanan, Itsuzo Shigematsu, and Arthur C. Upton.

He was an author as exemplified by "A Song Among the Ruins," his lyrical account of his early experiences in Japan in the 1940s and 1950s. Jack married his wife, Vicky, in 1946 and they were inseparable for 63 y until her death in 2009. At the time of his death, Jack was Professor Emeritus, The Human Genetics Center, School of Public Health, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Jack remained extremely active in his 90s and was planning another visit to Japan this Fall. He will be truly missed by his family, students, colleagues, and by so many of us who knew him for so many decades.

