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IN MEMORIAM
Aaron Rosenfield
1924–2013

Dr. Aaron Rosenfield, former President and Honored Life Member of the National Shellfisheries Association passed away peacefully in Easton, Maryland on October 6, 2013. Aaron was a pioneer of shellfish disease research and led marine pathobiology to the forefront of science during a distinguished career spanning over five decades. He will long be remembered for his generosity and graciousness to those who worked with him. He treated everyone as colleagues and members of his extended family. He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Clarice and survived by his daughter, Sandra.

Aaron was born to Joseph and Minnie Rosenfield on October 14, 1924 in Boston, MA. He was raised in Cambridge where he attended public schools and graduated from the Cambridge Latin School in 1942. At the age of 17, Aaron proudly answered the call of duty by enlisting in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He served as quartermaster on P.T. boats in the Solomon and Philippine islands, New Guinea, and Palau. Following an honorable discharge in 1946, Aaron enrolled at the University of Massachusetts, where he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in 1950 and a Master's degree in bacteriology and food science the following year. He briefly worked as a chemist for a company producing emergency rations for the military, and was then awarded a Sara Hays Fellowship at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA in 1952. Aaron taught microbiology, botany, and plant physiology to undergraduates, and team-taught a general biology course along with another Hays Fellow Carl Sindermann. This began a lifetime of friendship and collaboration between the two scientists. During summer recesses, Aaron and Carl worked together at the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries Laboratory in Booth Bay Harbor where they collaborated on fish parasite projects.

In 1953, Aaron enrolled in graduate school at the University of Texas in Austin and was married the same year. From 1954-1956, he taught at Brandeis full-time and then returned to Austin to complete his doctoral degree. His wife, Clarice, worked in the University's Chemistry Department to support their family, which now included a daughter, Sandy. Aaron received his Ph.D. in 1960 on the physiological consequences of heterosis in corn, employing newly emerging techniques of DNA quantification, and then remained there briefly as a post-doc to study bioluminescence in marine organisms. Soon after, he accepted a position as Microbiology Program Leader at the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (BCF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in Boothbay Harbor Laboratory where he pursued leading-edge research in invertebrate cell culture, mechanisms of disease transmission and resistance, and cytogenetics. Aaron's ability to envision new horizons in cell and molecular biology, along with his profound curiosity and imagination, propelled him to new frontiers of science throughout his career. In 1962, Aaron moved his family to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to become the lead for the Shellfish Mortality Program at BCF's new Oxford Laboratory. He became deeply involved

"He is the only real revolutionary, the authentic scientist, because he alone knows how little he knows."
Sinclair Lewis - Arrowsmith (1925)

"Aaron has been my best friend for more than half a century, beginning with team-teaching appointments for both of us at Brandeis University in the mid-1950's. We team-taught for several years a great course in general education biology to the entire non-scientific component of the sophomore classes of the University. Aaron created the laboratory handbook and supervised an annual cadre of six teaching fellows, while I gave the lectures, and we all enjoyed ourselves immensely in that very stimulating environment of a new university."
Carl Sindermann - 2014

"Aaron was the hands-on person-to-person kind of laboratory director that the Oxford Laboratory needed, and it prospered under his directorship, despite limitations in federal program funding. Research productivity was high and the Oxford Laboratory achieved world-wide recognition for its research on shellfish diseases during Aaron's leadership there. Aaron remained at the Oxford Laboratory for the rest of his career, where he was known as an inspirational, knowledgeable, and effective leader and laboratory director. Later in my own career, I moved north from Miami to New Jersey and the Middle Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Research Center at Sandy Hook, so I was able to see Aaron at frequent staff meetings or during personal visits to the Oxford Laboratory. Our friendship never wavered and he was always full of new ideas for research and new proposals for studies to be done."
Carl Sindermann - 2014

in research on the newly emerging oyster diseases, including MSX, SSO, and Dermo, which were devastating economically and ecologically valuable mollusk species. Aaron and his team's discovery, and description, of the spore stage of the MSX parasite filled a critical gap in knowledge on the life cycle of the parasite, and brought worldwide recognition to the laboratory. When the facility was transferred to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1970's, Aaron became its Officer-in-Charge and Director of Pathobiology Investigations. He continued to lead the Oxford Laboratory for nearly 20 years, successfully guiding the facility through several organizational transitions. At the same time, he served as Director and Chief of the Northeast Fisheries Research and Science Center's Division of Pathobiology. Consequently, Aaron directed and supervised research on coastal aquatic animal health, biomedicine, and comparative pathobiology at his own facility, as well as that conducted at NMFS laboratories in Milford, CT and Sandy Hook, NJ. His program expanded beyond shellfish to include other invertebrates, especially crustaceans, and finfish, as well as characterizations of microbial pathogens and tumors in lower vertebrates. Under Aaron's leadership, the Oxford Laboratory achieved international recognition as a leading institution in the detection and control of marine fish and shellfish diseases. Students and scientists from around the globe visited the facility to learn techniques and skills specific to marine pathology. At that time, Aaron foresaw the need and acquired funding to produce the Registry of Marine Pathology (ROMP) and an Atlas of Histopathology, which included a collection of microslides and pictorial guide to marine parasites and diseases. He also encouraged the compilation and completion of a manual on histological techniques for invertebrates based upon the Oxford Laboratory's application and modifications of vertebrate research protocols. To date, two editions of the reference manual have been distributed to public and private laboratories and institutions in more than 60 countries.

''Aaron and I occasionally took trips to scientific meetings together, and sometimes our wives accompanied us. Two trips that I remember most vividly were to the Grand Canyon and to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. At the Grand Canyon we took the Bright Angel trail to the valley, and in Santiago we witnessed the arrival of a great mass of penitents who had walked the ''Way of Saint James'' across Spain from Madrid. Aaron was always a great travelling companion, either in the United States or elsewhere. Our joint travels to the Canadian Maritime Provinces and Quebec – to Nova Scotia and the Gaspe Peninsula – were priceless events for both of us, never to be forgotten – and they had sound scientific objectives too.''
Carl Sindermann - 2014

Throughout his career, Aaron forged numerous cooperative alliances with federal and state agencies, foreign governments, and both professional and scientific organizations worldwide. He and his staff were prominent in the development of guidelines for the safe movement of fish and shellfish to prevent the introduction of non-native species (hosts and parasites) in U.S. and foreign waters. He was instrumental in organizing ''Shellfish Mortality Conferences'' and brought together early molluscan pathologists who were tackling outbreaks of MSX disease in oysters in the early 1950's and 1960's. In the 1980's, he organized similar conferences for the growing cadre of invertebrate pathologists addressing marine pathology concerns. Aaron co-founded the Eastern Fish Health Workshop with Dr. Stanislaus S.F. Sniezsko, the director of the presently named Leetown Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey in 1975. Case studies and research findings are presented at the annual gatherings of aquatic animal pathologists in a unique venue of ''science shared in friendship.'' The workshop continues to be highly regarded by aquatic scientists and students across the nation, and this year's 39th session was dedicated in Aaron's memory.

In the long history of humankind those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.
Charles Darwin

''I am so grateful for this opportunity to see these young folks and also to be with these young folks that are here in front of me. You all have a fantastic organization and…you'll see how informal it is. You'll see how friendly everybody is. You'll see how much great information…is shared.''
Aaron Rosenfield - 2008

Throughout his career, Aaron maintained close relations with academic institutions and was a generous mentor to many young professionals. He was a research associate with

the Biology Department at Georgetown University, an associate faculty member at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and Hygiene, and an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies. Aaron was a member of the American Fisheries Society and the American Institute for Biological Sciences. He joined the National Shellfisheries Association in 1962, serving as vice president in 1978 and president in 1979. In 1991, with his career-long colleague Dr. Carl Sindermann, the two friends were installed as Honorary Life Members in the National Shellfisheries Association. He helped to found the Society for Invertebrate Pathology, serving as its Treasurer in 1983. In addition, Aaron helped organize and support national and international workshops for the American Fisheries Society, the Society for Invertebrate Pathology, the American Institute for Biological Sciences, the National Shellfisheries Association, and the Society for *in Vitro* Biology. Aaron published 65 scientific papers over the course of his career, most of which was devoted to administrative leadership.

''Disease work has been an extraordinary experience. It's given me a life of joy, quite frankly, to realize that there are different kinds of people in this world. There are some very, very kind people, and there are some very….some very aggressive people, who sometimes go beyond their aggression into meanness. But for the most part, what we have here…and what we have, quite frankly, in these conferences as well, were people who were not afraid to talk about things before they were published. They were wide open.''
Aaron Rosenfield - 2008

In 1987, NOAA entered a new agreement with Maryland Department of Natural Resources to form the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory (COL). The new mission combined the unique research and management capabilities of each agency to collaboratively identify and evaluate actions and policies to protect, restore, and secure the health of the Chesapeake Bay and other threatened coastal marine ecosystems. At that time, Aaron took leave of his position and signed an Interagency Personnel Agreement at the University of Maryland's Center for Estuarine and Environmental Studies to organize workshops and publish on the history and status of molluscan shellfisheries. He was senior editor of a seminal Maryland Sea Grant publication, entitled ''Dispersal of Living Organisms into Aquatic Ecosystems.'' The book highlighted how science is used to make decisions about introductions of exotic species, and spotlighted the intersection of emerging areas of concern - aquaculture, introduced species, and ecological risk assessment. He officially retired from federal service in 1993 but maintained an office as a visiting senior scientist at COL for several years. In his retirement, he tirelessly organized workshops and published their proceedings. He was co-editor of ''The History, Present Condition, and Future of the Molluscan Fisheries of North and Central America and Europe'' published as a NOAA Technical Memorandum in 1997. In 1996, he organized another major symposium, ''The Blue Crab Fisheries of North America'' and the results constitute the entire September 1998 issue of the Journal of Shellfish Research.

Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.
Carl Sagan

Aaron's passion for science was equaled only by his passion for people, community, and service. His genuineness and excellent listening skills made him an engaging communicator who welcomed and valued new ideas and fresh insights. At the same time, he highly regarded the legacy of scientific discovery upon which new breakthroughs were founded. In his daily interactions with students, peers, and administrative heads, he seemed to have a unique ability among scientists to check his ego at the door. Aaron took a sincere interest in the personal and professional goals of laboratory staff and shared insights from his life experiences. He was always humble about his own accomplishments but took time to formally and informally recognize contributions

''Aaron and I both retired at roughly the same time – early 1990's – but he continued to think about and to develop plans for shellfish disease research and other broader environmental research programs. He also gave me excellent suggestions for the book that I was writing at the time about scientific research laboratory directors.
Aaron has been gone only a few short weeks, but I miss him immensely. It is not easy to end a half-century of close friendship with a person like Aaron Rosenfield. I will miss him greatly, as a friend and colleague of long standing, and the world of science will seem much smaller to me without his presence.''
Carl Sindermann - 2014

''As we walk along the shoreline, there comes a real sense of joy when you find that rare and perfect shell. Imagine what that would be like if you found the pearl inside an oyster. Aaron Rosenfield was truly such a find; - a very rare individual in a sea of humanity. He stood for so many different things for all of us who knew him…we celebrate his career … his leadership … his warmth … his vitality … his friendship.''
Rocco Cipriano - 2014

of all laboratory staff. Aaron was a respected and effective leader who astutely translated agency missions and goals into meaningful research and outcomes. He altruistically guided scientists and their science to success and worked hard to garner support when needed. The doors to his office, and his heart, were always open. Aaron leaves behind a legacy of students, scientists, and administrators who will long remember him as a leader, mentor, and friend.

Shawn McLaughlin
NOAA, Oxford, MD

Carl Sindermann
Easton, MD

Rocco Cipriano
USGS, Kearneysville, WV

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