IN MEMORIAM

In memoriam Michael Goldman (1936–2010)

P. Paredi*, O.S. Usmani*, S.A. Kharitonov*, N.M. Siafakas[#], N.B. Pride* and P.J. Barnes*

It is our sad duty to announce the passing of Professor Michael David Goldman to the readers of the *European Respiratory Journal*. Michael Goldman passed away on March 18, 2010 at the age of 74 yrs, following a myocardial infarction. He will be an immense loss to lung physiology.

Born in 1936, Mike studied medicine at Harvard University (Cambridge, MA, USA) and University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA, USA). After some initial clinical experience in Minneapolis interrupted by 2 years as a Medical Officer as Captain in the United States Air Force, he moved back to the Harvard School of Public Health in 1967 as a graduate student in the Department of Physiology. Mike obtained his Sc.D. in 1975 and was Assistant Professor of Physiology from 1975–1978. In this period, under the guidance of Jere Mead, he rapidly established himself as an investigator with pioneering studies of the physiology of the normal human diaphragm. Jere Mead profoundly influenced his future career and left a lasting mark on his academic development. He also visited the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases (London, UK) to work on the clinical detection of diaphragm weakness; this work put a neglected clinical problem on the map. It was also the forerunner of many subsequent working visits to Europe, particularly to Paris, London and Oxford, which made him well known in Europe.

In 1978, he moved to Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH, USA), where he developed interests in control of breathing during sleep and noninvasive monitoring. Subsequently, he had appointments in Salt Lake City and Philadelphia, before finally settling in Los Angeles in 1990 with appointments in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and at University of California, Los Angeles (CA, USA). “Settling” is not the correct word because during this final 20 yrs of his career, he also had appointments in several institutions in Texas, and was in great demand as an expert in a variety of physiological techniques useful for clinical assessment in drug trials, which extended his earlier travels throughout the USA and Europe to Australasia, South America and South Africa. In the most-recent years, his major interest was in developing and promoting the forced oscillation technique for assessing respiratory mechanics; a technique that was the subject of his first published paper from

FIGURE 1. Professor Michael Goldman (1936–2010).

Harvard School of Public Health in 1970 and he very recently published a paper with us on the further development of this technique.

Mike was involved in the training of countless pulmonologists in all continents. His trainees admired him for his wide and profound knowledge of respiratory medicine but also for his warm-hearted approach and genuine interest in research.

What was really special about Mike was that he remained, to the end of his career, a “hands on” investigator, passionately interested in demonstrating and promoting accurate methodology. Such investigators are rare because this approach is time consuming and repetitive but extremely valuable to blossoming investigators who use techniques requiring human co-operation.

Mike probably impressed people most with his charming, affable and friendly personality, and turned many people in the USA, Europe and across the world into real friends. His greatest

*Airway Disease Section, National Heart and Lung Institute, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London, London, UK. [#]Dept of Thoracic Medicine, University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece.

CORRESPONDENCE: P. Paredi, Airway Disease Section, National Heart and Lung Institute, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London, London, UK. E-mail: p.paredi@imperial.ac.uk

asset was his immense strength and passion for work. He was never tired and used to disregard his jet lag to join our research sessions in London immediately after flying in from Los Angeles. He was interested in different cultures and languages and this helped him to “connect” with a number of students from different countries who saw him as a role model.

Mike was a friend and a father for many who were lucky enough to have him as a mentor and who will perpetuate his memory by continuing his work.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

None declared.