Charles R. (Bob) Schuster, 1930–2011

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Charles R. Schuster, Ph.D.

Charles (Bob) R. Schuster was a pioneer and eminent leader in the discipline of psychopharmacology of drugs of abuse. He made enormous contributions to the drug abuse community, both personally and professionally. Personally, he supported and enriched the lives of numerous colleagues and students, as well as policy makers and patients. He inspired us and infused us with his insights and wisdom. Professionally, he was a deeply committed and rigorous researcher, who unfailingly valued empirical evidence over intuition, tradition, or sociopolitical conventions. Readers of *Psychopharmacology* will be familiar with Bob Schuster's scientific contributions in several areas. He was among the first to demonstrate that nonhumans readily self-

administer many of the same drugs that humans abuse. This finding completely changed established thinking, from the idea that drug use resulted from psychological or moral failings in the users to the idea that drug use is a behavior based on neurobiological activity. This recognition, that drugs function as reinforcers much like other more natural reinforcers such as food or sex, deeply influenced his acceptance and understanding of individuals afflicted with drug abuse problems. Dr. Schuster made many other major discoveries in his research with laboratory animals, regarding the neurotoxicity of certain drugs, Pavlovian conditioning, and tolerance with psychoactive drugs. In later years he became an advocate for the value of buprenorphine as a treatment for heroin addiction. Dr. Schuster was open-minded, and his interests were extremely broad ranging. In the last decade, he was highly supportive of a revival of research on the use of “psychedelic” drugs, such as psilocybin, for purposes of psychotherapeutics or personal enlightenment. He applied his curiosity and scientific rigor to this new and complex topic, just as he had to other new topics that challenged current thinking in the past.

Dr. Schuster received many honors for his research and his knowledge and perspective. He served as the director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and appeared annually before the House and Senate Appropriations and Authorizations Committees to explain and justify the institute's research plans. He served the international community of drug abuse policy makers, as a member of the Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization, providing consultation on international drug abuse control treaties. He received the Nathan B. Eddy and Mentorship Award from the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, the Distinguished Scientific Award for the Applications of Psychology from the American Psychological Association.

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tion, and the Peter B. Dews Award from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. In 1990 he became a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science. The Division of Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse created the annual Brady–Schuster Award in honor of the work of Drs. Brady and Schuster. Dr. Schuster was recently honored by a named lectureship series in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Chicago, where he gave the inaugural presentation in October 2010.

Dr. Schuster was accompanied in the last 38 years of his career by his colleague and wife, Chris-Ellyn Johanson. They provided a welcoming setting for lively intellectual and social exchange, both in their home and at scientific meetings. Together as a team, they became a personal and professional force in the field of drug abuse. They traveled extensively, sharing their passion and knowledge about research and public policy in drug abuse. Bob will be remembered for his warmth, his love of life and his irrepressible humor, his soulful music, as well as for his deep social conscience. Bob Schuster passed away unexpectedly on February 21, 2011 at the age of 81.