In Memoriam Elliot Rapaport

Lionel H. Opie

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Elliot Rapaport, founder of the Cardiology Division at San Francisco General Hospital, recently died in September 2010 at the age of 85. He headed this Division for more than 30 years, being described by colleagues as a modest, humanitarian man and a fine clinical cardiologist. A man of much energy, many talents and a soft manner, he was Associate Dean of the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine for 13 years. He was even teaching medical students in the wards a few weeks before he died.

It was my singular honor to be working closely with Elliot as Co-Editor of *Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy* from 1988–1998. Elliot took over from Prof Henry Neufeld who had founded the Journal with me in 1986.

Launching a new journal is a risky process and there were strongly divergent views on how best to develop the readership base. Elliot brought with him considerable Editorial experience, having been Editor-in-Chief of *Circulation* for five years.

He had an excellent understanding of all areas of cardiology, being President of the American Heart Association in 1974. He also was a strong supporter of the World Heart Federation (WHF) which led to the recognition of our Journal the by the WHF (see top left of our Journal cover). Later, he became President of the WHF.

On a personal basis, he was always responsive, always patient and always resilient in promoting the best interests of our Journal. He was very hospitable in extending his personal warmth to all Board members.

Overall, he consistently gave excellent and clear advice to our Editorial Board on important policy issues, thereby helping to steer the Journal to its present status as an established and important contributor to basic and clinical therapeutic cardiology.

Lionel H. Opie, Co-Editor *Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy*, 1986–2001

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