Julius M. Cruse: His rendezvous with immunology

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Dr. Julius M. Cruse

This special volume of *Immunologic Research*, under the Guest Editorship of Professors Yehuda Shoenfeld and Nancy Agmon-Levin, is dedicated to Dr. Julius M. Cruse, founding Editor in Chief of the journal, which is now in its 31st year of publication. As a colleague and former student, it is a pleasure and privilege for me to relate a few highlights of Dr. Cruse's role as a scientific communicator, editor, researcher, and medical educator, as well as a mentor, not only to his own students and close colleagues, but to young investigators world-wide who have sought his counsel with their academic publications. He has found great satisfaction in sharing his expertise with young investigators of many nations who are beginning their careers in biomedical research.

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His life-long fascination with immunology was sparked by his admiration for some of the early pioneering investigators, including Pasteur, Koch, Ehrlich, Metchnikoff, Bordet, and von Behring, among others, described in the books by Paul de Kruif entitled *Microbe Hunters* [1] and *Men Against Death* [2]. As an early teenager, Julius sought permission from a local medical school bacteriology professor to audit lectures and observe in the laboratories where second year medical students were being taught. He later completed degrees in Chemistry and German and won a Fulbright Fellowship for study abroad which enabled him to visit European research institutes where his childhood heroes made immunological history. He completed a medical research degree at the Karl Franzens Universität Graz, Austria, where he published his thesis on "Russian tick-borne encephalitis virus" in *Die Zeitschrift für Immunitätsforschung*, a journal founded by Paul Ehrlich, his scientific role model. On his return to the United States, Julius earned the MD and PhD in Pathology/Immunology, as a USPHS Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, Memphis. After the completion of his formal training in Pathology and Immunology, he was appointed Lecturer at The University of Tennessee Institute of Pathology. Subsequently, he joined the Graduate and Medical Faculty of the University of Mississippi, where, in 1967, he was named the University's first Professor of Immunology and Director of Immunological Research. In 2003, Dr. Cruse was appointed the University's first Distinguished Professor of the History of Medicine. He serves presently as Professor and Vice Chair of Pathology and Director of the Division of Immunopathology UMMC. He also holds Professor of Medicine and Professor of Microbiology appointments as well. Dr. Cruse serves as Director of Graduate Studies in Pathology and has mentored many doctoral students in the completion of their PhD research in

Immunology and Immunopathology. He was named first Director of the Tissue Typing Laboratory as a part of the pioneering transplant program of Professor James D. Hardy, Chair of Surgery, who transplanted the first lung from one human to another in 1963 and the first heart from a chimpanzee to a man in 1964. Since that time, he and I have served as Co-Directors of the Transplant Immunology Laboratories, Division of Immunopathology. Based on his research history and excellent early editorial work on the *Dorland Medical Dictionary*, as Immunology Editor, he was offered the opportunity of establishing a new immunology journal. With the founding of *Immunologic Research* in 1981, our editorial collaboration began, a 35 year span that is still ongoing with unaltered momentum. Dr. Cruse and I also established a pathology journal in 1983 entitled *Pathology and Immunopathology Research*, which was subsequently renamed *Pathobiology* in 1990 and continued under our editorial stewardship through 1998. In the early 1990s, at a time when new concepts were emerging in genetics, we launched a third international journal entitled *Transgenics* from Gordon and Breach, NY. We edited book series on Immunology and Immunopathology with Karger Publishers in the 1980s, that included *Concepts in Immunopathology* (eight volumes), titles on autoimmunity, and special annual volumes entitled *The Year in Immunology*, to highlight the major advances for that year, as a feature of the journal *Immunologic Research*. We also edited the Karger book series entitled *Contributions to Microbiology and Immunology*, 1987–1998 and founded a book series, *Complement Profiles*, and produced a single volume of *Progress in Experimental Tumor Research* entitled *Immunomodulation of Neoplasia*. In 1999, we accepted the invitation of Elsevier Publishers to serve as the main editors of *Experimental and Molecular Pathology*. Our other books have included *Immunology Examination Review Book*, published in 1971 and a second edition in 1975, from Medical Examination Publishing Co., NY, and currently, *Illustrated Dictionary of Immunology* and *Atlas of Immunology* from Taylor and Francis Publishers, London, both of which have been through three editions with a fourth in preparation. He served as Immunology Editor of the *Dorland Medical Dictionary* from 1967 through 1992, which included a complete revision and major expansion of the immunology definitions, as the immunology entries had never been updated since the *Dictionary* was first published in 1900. We authored and edited a volume entitled *Immunology Guidebook* from Elsevier, London, which was released in 2004 with a new edition in preparation. In 1995, our *Historical Atlas of Immunology* [3] was published by Taylor and Francis Publishers, London. Thus, his vast experience in biomedical publishing has led many to refer to Dr. Cruse as “an Editor’s Editor.” He is known as a dedicated and effective mentor to countless students and colleagues from many nations. He has maintained a tenacity and dedication to

the advancement of knowledge in immunology, pathology, and the history of medicine. He has been mentor to scores of students, faculty, and colleagues for almost half a century. Although he serves at the University of Mississippi Medical Center as a Guyton Distinguished Professor of Pathology, Medicine, and Microbiology, as well as Distinguished Professor of the History of Medicine, and Vice Chair of the Department, he claims to have only pointed the way rather than teaching those seeking his counsel. Dr. Cruse has served as a medical book author, professor, and mentor to many and has authored more than 300 articles on a diverse array of topics including molecular genetics of systemic lupus erythematosus, toll-like receptors in AIDS, endothelial cell gene expression in renal allograft rejection, to name a few of his most recent research interests. He has also authored papers on literature and philosophical topics. He has directed the PhD research of multiple candidates working in his laboratory and has been funded by grants from federal and state, as well as private resources. In the early 1990s, he served on the NIH Study Section on Transplant Immunology.

Among his other interests is the collection of books and papers on the history of immunology, including hundreds of titles, many signed by luminaries such as Ehrlich, Pasteur, Mechnikoff, Bordet, among many others. His principal History of Immunology Collection was donated in 1980 to the Middleton Medical Library of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. They published a book about this Collection entitled *Immunology to 1980* [4]. The Cruse Collection was subsequently adopted by the American Association of Immunologists as their official resource for the history of immunology. A second historical immunology collection was donated to the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s Rowland Medical Library in 2004. Another academic interest was his collection of a large number of publications that exceeded 3,000 volumes on authors of the modernist movement in English literature. That Collection was subsequently donated to an institution of higher learning in New York City [5] and was later transferred to the Manuscript and Rare Books Library of Emory University (MARBL) [6], where it is an integral part of their permanent collection. His contributions to literary scholarship were recognized with the awarding of an honorary doctorate in 1999.

He serves as Historian of the American Association of Immunologists and of the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. He was a Member of Council and long-term Chair of Publications of the latter Society. As a part of his interest in the history of immunology and medicine, he has conducted oral interviews with multiple contributors to immunology, including Michael Heidelberger, Jules Bordet, Elvin Kabat, Baruj Benacerraf, David Talmage, and Bernard Amos, among a host of other luminaries. He has also completed more than

40 video-taped interviews of medical scientists entitled *History Speaking* [7]. He holds multiple fellowships and memberships in professional societies including the American Association of Immunologists, the *Societe Francaise d'Immunologie*, and the American Society for Investigative Pathology, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, and as a Fellow of the Academy of Microbiology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Royal Society of Medicine, London, among many other professional groups. Among the many honors he has received in his career, perhaps the most meaningful to him personally is the commitment by the University of Mississippi Medical Center to establish the “Julius M. Cruse, MD, PhD Distinguished Professorship of Immunology” [8].

An eternal optimist, Dr. Cruse will doubtless continue to view Nature with wonder and awe and inspire new generations of aspiring scientists to become obsessed with unraveling some of Nature’s most jealously guarded secrets through novel and innovative research.

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