In memoriam Thomas H. MacRae (1948–2019)

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Tom MacRae presenting during a workshop entitled “The Small HSP World” held in Québec, 2–5 October 2014.

After a long and highly significant career, Professor Emeritus Thomas H. MacRae of Dalhousie University passed away on 20 November 2019; he was 71 years old. Tom met his soon-to-be-wife, Cheryl, when they were in their early twenties at Mt. Allison University. They led a happy and very busy life; frequently traveling together as a “scientific duo” to various places around the world.

Tom earned his BSc at Mount Allison University (New Brunswick, Canada) and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Windsor, Ontario. After postdoctoral work at the Université de Sherbrooke in Québec (microbiology), the University of Mississippi (biochemistry) and the University of

Ottawa, Ontario, he took a faculty position in the Department of Biology at Dalhousie University in Halifax and the MacRae family, now with two small children moved to that city. That was an interesting move since Tom was born in Halifax and spent his early years there; in a sense, he had come full circle!

Tom spent his early faculty research working on various aspects of the eukaryote cytoskeleton but the substantial emphasis of his scientific career was devoted to the biochemistry and developmental biology of the invertebrate extremophile *Artemia franciscana*, commonly known as the brine shrimp. The contributions of Tom, his colleagues and their students to our understanding of this extraordinary invertebrate have been truly exceptional and certainly will be long-lasting. Eleven of his papers were published in *Cell Stress & Chaperones*, the journal of the Cell Stress Society International. These papers are included in his partial bibliography below. Tom was an early member of the CSSI and a strong supporter of our journal as an author and also as a reviewer of nine manuscripts. Tom was also a frequent presenter at our meetings. The image accompanying this memoriam article shows Tom presenting at the sHSP workshop in Québec in 2014. His talk was published in the proceedings of this workshop and is included in the bibliography.

Tom was an exceptional teacher of undergraduates at Dalhousie and a devoted and skillful mentor of graduate students, having supervised the graduate work of some 27 students.

He was also an active member of the administrative organization at Dalhousie, having served as Chair of the Department of Biology, among other posts.

Tom has received many awards and honors, far too many to list here. Suffice to note that many of those were from universities in countries other than Canada.

He was a man of serious activity, but also a person with a very well-developed sense of humor, always being willing to engage in a wide variety of humorous activity, ranging from the simple to the very complex.

In summary of this all too brief account, I believe that Tom fully deserves and will receive a distinguished academic and scientific legacy. On a personal note I will greatly miss his activity as a scientific colleague, and as a dedicated and very close friend.

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