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Lucy F. Lee

About the cover

Lucy F. Lee was born in China in 1931 but emigrated to the United States as a teenager where she attended Ohio Dominican College, the University of Maryland and, finally, Michigan State University where she earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry. She accepted a position with the USDA-ARS-Regional Poultry Research Laboratory (now Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory) in 1968. Over the ensuing 43 years at ADOL, she built a distinguished career conducting research on avian tumor viruses. Much of her work focused on Marek's disease virus (MDV) where she began with chemical characterization, moved to immunology with special emphasis on monoclonal antibodies, moved again to molecular biology to focus first on the identification of viral genes and later to sequence the entire genome, and finally to the development and evaluation of recombinant vaccines. She also contributed to knowledge on avian leukosis virus and reticuloendotheliosis virus. Many of her monoclonal antibodies continue to be in widespread use in research and commercial laboratories. She was the first to obtain a complete genetic sequence of MDV. She mentored a large number of Chinese students and scholars, beginning in the early 1980s, many of whom developed their own distinguished careers in science, both in China and the United States. She received the Upjohn Achievement Award from AAAP, an honorary degree from Jiangsu University, an International Award from the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the 9th International Symposium on Marek's Disease. Lucy Lee retired from ADOL in 2011 and passed away in 2017. Her biography is on the AAAP website.