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Julius and Catherine Fabricant

About the cover

Julius and Catherine Fabricant met, and married, while graduate students at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, both under the mentorship of Dr. P. P. Levine. Catherine earned an MS degree in 1948 for her studies on the effect of penicillin on poultry pathogens, and Julius received his PhD a year later for work on the diagnosis of Newcastle disease and infectious bronchitis.

Julius took a faculty position at the Veterinary College and quickly established himself as a first-rate specialist in the field of avian respiratory infections (Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis, mycoplasmosis), often in collaborations with Dr. Levine. He contributed a great deal of new information in these fields and, in later years, he participated in studies on Marek's disease with Bruce Calnek's group. He was a founding member of the AAAP and liked to sit in the front row of our meetings and hold speakers to high scientific standards with piercing (and sometimes embarrassing) questions. He had a remarkably broad range of interests and knowledge in our field of avian medicine.

Catherine took time off to start a family, then returned to science with studies on infectious diseases of cats in the Microbiology Department. Her discovery of cholesterol crystals in cell cultures infected with a herpesvirus from cats with urinary obstructions led her to initiate studies with Marek's disease herpesvirus (MDV) in chickens. Together with Julius and pathologists from Cornell's medical college, she tested and proved her hypothesis that MDV could, indeed, induce atherosclerosis in chickens with important implications in human medicine. She had a reputation for meticulous work, a keen searching mind, and the ability to pursue new and difficult avenues of research.