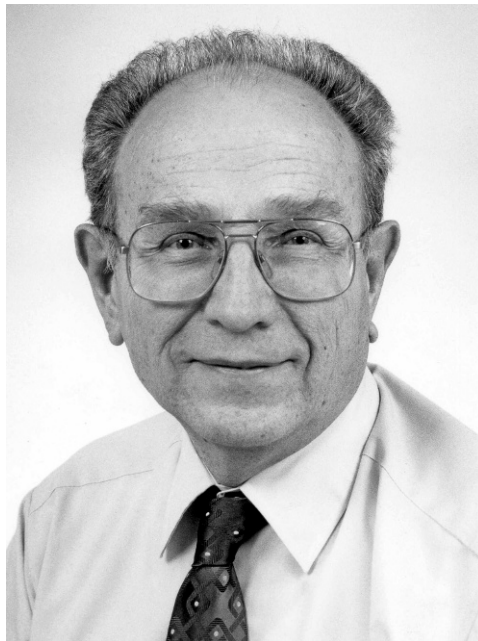


Obituary

H. Graham Purchase 1936–2010



Dr. H. Graham Purchase, a distinguished researcher and international expert on avian tumors, died March 12, 2010 at the age of 73. Graham was born in Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) on August 8, 1936. He received the degrees of B.Sc. from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa (1955), B.V.Sc. from the University of Pretoria in Onderstepoort, South Africa (1959) and M.R.C.V.S. from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in London, England (1961). His father, Harvey Spurgeon Purchase, was a veterinarian, as is his brother, Iain Francis Harvey Purchase.

He was employed by the USDA-ARS-Regional Poultry Research Laboratory (now Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory) in East Lansing, Michigan from 1961–1974 where he led a research team that developed, using the FC126 strain of turkey herpesvirus, the first vaccine against Marek's disease in the United States, a singular achievement in animal disease control and in cancer biology. He also contributed to the epidemiology of avian leukosis and was among the first to recognize the reticuloendotheliosis viruses as a distinct group of avian retroviruses. In 1965 he spent a sabbatical year with the Houghton Poultry Research Station in England, working on Marek's disease.

He received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Michigan State University in 1965 and 1970, respectively, under the guidance of Dr. Charles Cunningham. He was a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) and a founding diplomate of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV). He was also an active member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

Among his roles with the AAAP, he served on the editorial committee for the first two editions of *Isolation and Identification of Avian Pathogens*, and was the chairman of the editorial committee for the 3rd edition. With Simon Shane, he championed the concept of a specialty board certification for poultry veterinarians, an effort that resulted in the necessary support from the AAAP board to pave the way for the formation of the ACPV. He was active in the ACVM, serving as Executive Director and Secretary/Treasurer. He served on the AVMA Advisory Board of Veterinary Specialties.

From 1974–1988 he worked for the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Maryland, holding several posts with the National Program Staff including a period as Assistant Administrator. He also served as Scientific Advisor to the Director of the Beltsville Research Center. From 1988–1998 he was Director of Research at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, where he received the Dean's Pegasus Award, and Associate Director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. From 1998–2000 he was Chief of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Since his retirement in 2000 he lived in Dagsboro, Delaware.

He received numerous awards including the Tom Newman Award, the Arthur Fleming Award, the USDA Distinguished Service Award, the CPC International Award and the Sigma Xi Junior Research Award. He was active in Boy Scouts and was a volunteer for the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays. His lifelong hobbies included fishing, square dancing, sailing and singing in his church choir. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, two children, four grandchildren and a brother. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or to CaringBridge.org.