



Jerry Bruce Hook

September 7, 1937 - January 9, 2021

Jerry passed peacefully at home on January 9, 2021 at age 83. He fought a brave battle against Parkinson's Disease since 2005 and his spirit was finally freed from the body that failed him, but never could contain his determination, humor, and love of life, family, and friends.

Jerry earned a PhD in pharmacology from the University of Iowa in 1966 and went on to a prolific academic career at Michigan State University in the Department of Pharmacology. In 1980, Jerry was appointed as the Founding Director of the MSU Center for Environmental Toxicology where programs were developed to apply multidisciplinary sciences to human and environmental toxicology. He influenced many young students, especially those who worked in his laboratory over the years; he personally trained 5 post-doctoral fellows, 10 PhD students, and 4 MS students. During his academic career, he published over 250 journal articles, book chapters, and scientific reviews. In 1983, Jerry was named Vice-President of Preclinical Development at Smith Kline & French Pharmaceuticals (which later became SmithKline Beecham) where he managed large departments in the US and UK for 10 years.

In 1993, Jerry took on a new challenge to become president and CEO of the pharmaceutical biotechnology companies Lexin and Sparta. Jerry was also very active in scientific societies, notably the Society of Toxicology where he

served as president in 1987-88, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), the International Union of Pharmacology, the International Union of Toxicology, and several others. He also served on the Editorial Boards of ten scientific journals.

In 1999, Jerry retired from the pharmaceutical industry to ease into retirement by overseeing construction of a new home near St. Michaels, MD, and to pursue his lifelong passion of fishing and hunting. Retirement also allowed more time for hosting family and many friends as well as extensive worldwide traveling to explore other cultures and cuisine with his wife Jacque, family, and friends.

Jerry grew up in the small town of Tekoa in Eastern WA where he learned to fish with his father for lake trout, bass, and “blues” (a land-locked salmon) in Waitts Lake, WA and Lake Pend Oreille, ID. Later he shared his love of fishing with family and friends in Ocean City, MD and on the Chesapeake Bay with a weekly crew known as Tuesday’s Hookers.

Jerry is survived by his wife of nearly 36 years, Jacqueline H. Smith, along with his children Bruce (Lynn) in Boston MA and Marilyn Hook McKenna in Issaquah WA, and his six grandchildren Madeleine, Katie, Emily, Andrew, Robert, and Connor.

A heartfelt thanks from the family to all the wonderful physicians, therapists, friends, and caregivers from Comfort Keepers, Shore Regional Health, and Talbot Hospice that provided much needed help, support, and comfort over the years.

In memory of Jerry, please consider donating to a charity of your choice or one of Jerry’s favorites: YMCA of the Chesapeake, Univ of MD Memorial Hospital Foundation of Shore Regional Health (Easton), Society of Toxicology,

Michael J. Fox Foundation, and Talbot Hospice.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jerry Bruce Hook*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Jerry Bruce Hook*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Jerry Bruce Hook*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Please let me know if you can join us at our home near St Michaels MD on Saturday, October 23 for a Celebration of Life to honor Jerry.*

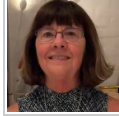
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Jacqueline Smith - August 29, 2021 at 12:54 PM



“ *I just learned of Jerry's death and I wish to express my heartfelt condolences in your and my loss. I served as Jerry's research mentor when he was a graduate student at the University of Iowa. I believe I was as much a student of him as he was of me. We were a great team and very productive and produced many Hook and Williamson papers.*

harold willimson - April 25, 2021 at 09:22 PM



Dear Harry, Thank you for your condolences and sharing your memories of Jerry. Jerry often spoke fondly of you, the time his spent in your lab, the mentoring and friendship you offered, and the impact it had on him professionally. I had always hoped that I would get to meet you at some time. I am planning a celebration of life at our home near St. Michaels MD on Saturday, Oct 23 and can provide more information if you would be able to join us. Best wishes to you and yours. Regards, Jacque

Jacqueline Smith - August 29, 2021 at 12:48 PM

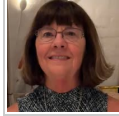
MK

“ Jacque –

My condolences to you and the Hook family on your loss. I first met Jerry soon after he became the founding Director of the Center for Environmental Toxicology (CET) at MSU. At the time, my MSU department had been eliminated, and I was searching for a new direction. I am very grateful that he gave me a chance to change my career and, while working with him, gave me guidance in how to be successful on this new path. Although he left MSU only a few years after I joined CET, he recommended me to the incoming Director and I spent the last 20 years of my career at CET (which is now known as the Institute for Integrative Toxicology). I was very happy to be able to keep up my relationship with him until I retired, often getting together with him at annual Society of Toxicology meetings. Although these were mostly social visits, he was also helpful by introducing me to other toxicologists with similar interests to mine. I have nothing but fond memories of Jerry and I often think of his generosity and how much I enjoyed working and interacting with him.

Mike Kamrin

Michael Kamrin - April 16, 2021 at 05:50 PM



Dear Mike, it's so good to hear from you. Thank you for your condolences and your memories of Jerry. I know he enjoyed working with you very much over the years and valued your friendship. I am planning a celebration of life for Jerry at our home near St Michaels on Saturday, Oct 23. I can share more details if you think you could join us. Best wishes to you and yours. Stay well. Regards, Jacque.

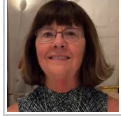
Jacqueline Smith - August 29, 2021 at 12:52 PM

CK

“*Jacque, Bruce, and Marilyn,
Jerry was a major mentor for me. The week before I started graduate school at the University of Iowa in 1964, I got married and our car died and had to borrow money to purchase another. I also was extremely green for graduate education as I had never done any research. Thus, I guess I was experiencing many stresses. For some unknown reason Jerry took me under his wing and definitely exemplified what a big brother in graduate school should be about. He taught me about the 100 hr work week, no vacations, how to select a research advisor (which we had to do in the first 5 days of graduate school), the importance of publish or perish, and that you get as much out of graduate school as you put into it. I was so thankful for his help, that the first time I was asked to organize a symposium, what happened to be in Egypt in April 1982, he was the first person that I asked to be a speaker. We also had a great touring Egypt.
Jerry continued to be a best friend and will be sincerely missed.
Curtis Klaassen*



curtis klaassen - January 13, 2021 at 04:38 PM



Curt, Thanks for sharing your memories and kind words about Jerry.

Jacqueline Smith - January 14, 2021 at 08:47 AM

“ Jerry Hook, Pharmacy, WSU, 1960

My wife, Kathleen and I extend our sincere condolences to Jacqueline and all the Hook family on Jerry's passing. In the day's ahead, I hope all of us who knew Jerry can quickly move beyond our sorrow to rejoicing in a life lived to its fullest and recall many special occasions with him.

I first met Jerry when he and I were undergraduate students in the late 1960's at Washington State College, which would soon become Washington State University, in the rolling hills of the Palouse south of Spokane, WA. Kathleen recalls meeting Jerry later when he was "Big Man on Campus". He was a member of Crimson Circle with membership awarded for service to the University. He was active in undergraduate affairs and later the College of Pharmacy. I can still see him bouncing up College Hill with a big "W" on his sweater and a grin on his face.

He came from a small town, Tekoa, in the Palouse and was attracted to Pharmacy by working as a high school student in a local Drug Store. Years later I noted to Jerry that as college student I visited his home town in search of a summer job on a ranch.

I was enrolled in Veterinary Medicine at WSU and the Veterinary Medicine students and Pharmacy students enjoyed being rivals. Some of the tales from those days Jerry and I exaggerated later and should not be repeated here. Jerry was not just about having fun, he was a serious student. He was inducted in to both Pharmacy Honorary Societies, Rho Chi and Kappa Psi. To provide some context for that time period, Presidential Candidate , John Kennedy, visited WSU in the spring of 1960 rounding up votes. Jerry and I were in the audience.

Jerry and I headed our separate ways. In 1961 the Society of Toxicology was created and our paths crossed again. We both became active in SOT affairs, he served as President of the SOT in

1987-1988 and I served as SOT President in 1989-1990. We use to note to each other-- not bad for two guys who started their collegiate education in the Palouse Hills at WSU.

It was pleasure to interact with Jerry. I think that some times he would take the other side of an issue to just keep the debate going. What ever the outcome he would have a smile on his face. I do want to emphasize another trait of Jerry's -- he was generous with both words of encouragement and financial support. When the SOT Endowment Fund was created he and Jacqueline became two of its most generous supporters.

It was joy to have Jerry as a friend for over 60 years. He will long be remembered as one of the giants of Toxicology and a high achieving WSU Cougar. May he rest in peace.

Roger O. McClellan, DVM, WSU, 1960

Roger O McClellan - January 12, 2021 at 05:03 PM



Thanks so much for sharing your memories and kind words.

Jacqueline Smith - January 13, 2021 at 11:29 AM

JG

My wife, Sandy, and I extend condolences to Jacque and the whole Hook family. Indeed, Jerry was a WONDERFUL individual and a great colleague. I was always proud to say that, "Jerry Hook is my friend."

Jay Goodman - January 13, 2021 at 01:42 PM

SC

Condolences to Jacque and the entire Hook family. Jerry was one superb teacher and mentor and will be missed as a warm friend. Mostly, I remember his cheerfulness, even in his constructive criticism. I recall his review of one of my early papers. He said the words were OK, but he didn't like the order I put them in. He will be missed and remembered. Stuart Cagen, MSU 1977

Stuart Z Cagen - January 14, 2021 at 11:01 PM

CS

Jacqueline and family. Had considerable interaction with Jerry in the Society of Toxicology. He was a great advisor and an incredibly active member--becoming president. You could always count on him when problems arose. His career was on the terrific level. Realize now that we had some early similarities in being pharmacy grads and being at Washington State university--at different times. His financial gifts -with Jacqueline will keep his presence in SOT for many more decades.

Craig Schnell - January 15, 2021 at 08:04 PM

RA

Jacque

I have extremely fond memories of Jerry. When I was trying to decide which lab to do my PhD research in, his was one of my options, he spent much time listening to me and helping me come to the right decision. Even though I did not choose his lab, I found him to be one faculty member who I could talk to at any time and not feel as though I was being judged from on high. I remember as well that he was a willing participant in some of the antics in those Christmas parties back at MSU. He was a great presence in the department.

He will be missed.

Rich Alper, MSU 1981

Richard Alper - January 16, 2021 at 06:53 AM

LS

Dear Jacque

I have belatedly learned of the sad news that Jerry has died. I know there is little that can be said that will really help at this miserable time but I hope that the love of your family and friends will be of some comfort.

I had the pleasure and privilege to get to know Jerry when he spent a year within our laboratory at CTL in the UK. He was a little older than me but much wiser. He was most generous with his time and effort in discussions and advice on the science of toxicology and much more. In the years that followed Jerry was always friendly and willing to spend time with me even when he was obviously busy. It is these often, and sometimes forgotten acts of kindness, combined with his useful advice and criticism that made him such a pleasure to know.

I do not have the words to adequately define Jerry, so I can only say that whatever of his many achievements he was rightfully proud, it will be the my memory of someone who was a delight to know that will endure.

My sincere condolences

Lewis L Smith

Lewis L Smith - February 01, 2021 at 01:23 PM