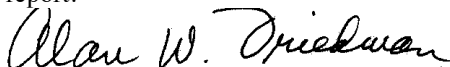


DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
CREED W. ABELL III**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Creed W. Abell III, Professor Emeritus, College of Pharmacy, has filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM
CREED W. ABELL III**

Creed Wills Abell III, Ph.D., a remarkable neurochemist and biologist, died on September 9, 2014. Dr. Abell was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1934, and was a proud son of Virginia, where his family lineage dates to the 1700s. He graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1956 and then entered Purdue University where he earned an M.S. and developed an interest in medicinal chemistry. Dr. Abell received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and completed postdoctoral studies under the direction of Dr. Charles Heidelberger, who was responsible for the development of the anticancer drug, 5-fluorouracil. Those studies likely sparked Dr. Abell's early interest in cancer research, which he pursued at the National Cancer Institute, then located in Bethesda, Maryland, followed by a short stay in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. He moved to The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston and switched his focus from cancer to neurochemistry and biology. He rose through the academic ranks at UTMB to become a Professor in the Department of Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics. He served as the Department Head 1981-84 and as the Director of the Biochemistry Graduate program. After fourteen years at UTMB, he accepted a position as Professor of Medicinal Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy here at The University of Texas at Austin and became the Henry M. Burlage Centennial Endowed Professorship in Medicinal Chemistry in 1986. He remained at UT Austin until his retirement in 2008, at which time he was named Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Abell was an outstanding scientist, educator, mentor, and colleague. He was an accomplished scientist who maintained a well-funded research program that secured multiple National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants during his academic career. He had more than one hundred twenty-five publications and several patents relating to his research in neuroscience. His research at UT Austin focused on the workings of the central nervous system, particularly the role of neurotransmitters, chemicals that carry signals between the neurons in the body. His work contributed to the scientific understanding of neurological disorders such as Parkinson and Alzheimer's disease. One of Dr. Abell's major scientific contributions concerned two forms of a protein that processes neurotransmitters. In a spectacular piece of work published in 1985, he was the first to identify the critical locations of these proteins in the brain. This study enhanced the understanding of neurological and psychiatric disorders. The ultimate goal, of course, is to develop treatments for these disorders, and Dr. Abell's work paved the way.

As an educator, Dr. Abell contributed to both the Pharm.D. and graduate program in Pharmacy, and he was instrumental in the design of a new graduate program in neuroscience along with the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. He fostered interdisciplinary research efforts at UT Austin, serving as Director of the Institute for Neuroscience 1992-2004. In 1995, he started the first annual symposium in neuroscience at the University. His graduate course, the *Molecular Biology of the Nervous System*, was the first of its kind at UT. One of the core courses in the medicinal chemistry graduate program for many years, it became an integral part of graduate studies for students across campus. He also shared his knowledge of molecular biology and the role it plays in pharmacy

and medicine with the professional students in a series of lectures. Dr. Abell was the first in a series of hires to modernize and enhance the reputation of the Division of Medicinal Chemistry. He brought to the Division molecular biology techniques that are now common place; his presence and work set the stage for what many of us do today.

In addition to his impressive research accomplishments, Dr. Abell will be remembered for his graciousness and willingness to help others. Always a gentleman, Dr. Abell treated all with respect and dignity. He encouraged and supported young faculty and celebrated their successes; he was generous with his equipment and advice. His post-doctoral research associates and graduate students have enormous respect for his scientific insights, his mentoring skills, and his warm and genteel nature. Many students proudly identify him as a colleague and role model.

Dr. Abell and Marjorie, his wife of fifty-eight years, shared a love for tennis and earned a second place in state rankings in mixed doubles at one time. He always enjoyed his Monday night game with a group of long-time friends at the Courtyard Tennis Club. Because he was always very modest, Dr. Abell's non-academic tennis friends never knew of his distinguished scientific career. Along with his wife, he leaves behind a son, Dr. Creed W. Abell IV and his wife, Catherine Lukefahr Abell, of Houston; a daughter, Janice Abell Kinnear and her husband, James, of Hurst; and grandchildren, Creed W. Abell V and Lynn Abell Guerrieri and her husband Riccardo, of Houston. He was tremendously proud of his children and grandchildren, and often shared stories of their achievements. He is greatly missed.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Christian P. Whitman (chair), Patrick J. Davis, and Steven W. Leslie.

Distributed to the dean of College of Pharmacy on February 9, 2017, and posted under "Memorial Resolutions" at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.