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Charles A. Janeway, Jr.
February 5, 1943–April 12, 2003

Charles (Charlie) A. Janeway, Jr., died on April 12, 2003 at age 60 following a long illness. At the time of his death, Janeway was Professor of Immunobiology and Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at Yale University School of Medicine. Janeway was also an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Scientist, teacher, and author, Janeway was an astounding intellect and a Renaissance man of immunology. His laboratory focused on basic questions about the control of the immune response, particularly in infectious disease and the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases such as EAE/MS and IDDM. In the last phase of his career, he conducted pioneering research on the innate immune system and its influence on adaptive immunity.

While a scientific giant, Janeway took great pleasure in teaching and mentoring. He taught a generation of medical and graduate students at Yale University, always encouraging debate and an exchange of ideas. He was a distinguished guest lecturer at universities and institutions throughout the world, and was a favorite at The American Association of Immunologists’ Advanced Course in Immunology. In addition to publishing hundreds of original scientific articles and reviews, Janeway was the principal author of the textbook, *Immunobiology: The Immune System in Health and Disease*, a well-known and widely read resource for all students of the discipline.

Janeway’s service to the AAI spanned three decades (AAI ’74). He served on many committees, participated in the annual meetings, performed editorial service for *The Journal of Immunology*, and was an AAI delegate for North America to the International Union of Immunology Societies. His service culminated with a seat on the AAI Council from 1991 to 1996, and as President from 1996 to 1997. During that time, he was instrumental in bringing the AAI to a new level of sophistication as an organization and remained dedicated to its mission. In the spring of 2001, Janeway was awarded the highest honor the AAI can bestow on a member—the AAI Lifetime Achievement Award.

Family, friends, and colleagues gathered in May to remember and honor Janeway at a memorial service held at New Haven’s United Church on the Green. The service was themed, in part, by the recited words of poet Robert Frost, beloved by Janeway. Readings included the poignant opening stanza from Frost’s “After Apple Picking.”

My long two-pointed ladder’s sticking through a tree Toward heaven still.
And there’s a barrel that I didn’t fill
Beside it, and there may be two or three
Apples I didn’t pick upon some bough.
But I am done with apple-picking now. . .

Lithographs made by Janeway, including one of an apple picker, were on display.

We are profoundly saddened by the loss of this extraordinary man who was so many things to so many people: teacher, colleague, friend; father and husband. We are fortunate to have worked closely with Charlie for many years and to be counted among his friends. We will miss his opinions and theories, his teaching and intellect, his perspective and kindness. We celebrate Charles A. Janeway, Jr., and salute his indomitable spirit. We have learned much from him and we are better because of him. This is his gift to all of us.

Richard W. Dutton
AAI Past President
Trudeau Institute
and M. Michele Hogan
AAI Executive Director
In Memoriam: World Renowned Yale Immunobiologist and “Father of Innate Immunity,” Charles Janeway

New Haven, Conn. - Charles Alderson Janeway, Jr., M.D., professor of immunobiology at the Yale University School of Medicine and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, died on April 12 at age 60 in New Haven after a long illness.

Janeway was one of the leading immunologists of his generation, whose ideas formed many of the concepts that are the basis of immunology today. He made major contributions to our understanding of T lymphocyte biology. He is renowned for his recent work on innate immunity, which is the body’s first line of defense against infection.

With brilliant insight, Janeway predicted in 1989 that pattern recognition receptors would mediate the body’s ability to recognize invasion by microorganisms. This striking prediction was made first on theoretical grounds and subsequently incisive experimental work in his laboratory established the underlying mechanisms. In this way, Janeway was one of the key fathers of what has become the new field of innate immunity, perhaps the most exciting area of immunology.

During his career, Janeway published more than 300 scientific papers. He was the principal author of the acclaimed textbook “Immunobiology: The Immune System in Health and Disease,” now in its 5th edition. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and won a number of awards, including the American Association of Immunologists Lifetime Achievement Award and the Avery-Landsteiner Award, the highest honor of the German Society of Immunology. He served on the board of directors of several research institutes, including the Trudeau Institute, The Jackson Laboratory and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. He was president of the American Association of Immunologists from 1997–1998.

Janeway took pride in training medical students, undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows, many of whom are now professors in immunology departments around the world. A gifted teacher, his lively lectures won him Yale’s Bohmfalk Teaching Award in 1991.

Friends, colleagues and family remember him as “Charlie,” one who loved sharing outdoor activities with his family, especially hiking and fly-fishing in New York’s Adirondack Mountains and sailing the waters off of Cape Ann, Massachusetts. He treasured the poetry of Robert Frost and illustrated a number of Frost’s poems with linoleum block prints.

Janeway is survived by his wife and colleague of 25 years, H. Kim Bottomly, also a professor of immunobiology at the Yale School of Medicine; three daughters: Katherine A. Janeway, M.D., of Cambridge, Mass., and Hannah H. Janeway and Megan G. Janeway, both of New Haven; three sisters: Anne Janeway of Marlboro, Vt., Elizabeth J. Gold of Toronto, Ontario, and Barbara B. Janeway of Newfields, N.H.; three nephews and one niece; and one grand-nephew and one grand-niece.

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