Dedication

Commendation of Diligence

A Legend in Neuroscience (1948-2018)

Dr. Stephen D. Skaper, Ph.D

Stephen Drake Skaper was born in Chicago, IL, USA on 16th October 1948. He received his PhD in biochemistry from the University of South Dakota and Laurea in chemistry from the University of Padua, Italy. He was Adjunct Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences (section on Pharmacology and Anesthesiology) at the University of Padua until his death on 22nd June 2018 in sleep at his home. From 1998-2008 he was a Senior Group Leader for Neurodegeneration Research, Neurology & GI Centre of Excellence for Drug Discovery, GlaxoSmithKline Research and Development Limited, United Kingdom. Prior to that he held academic research positions in the Department of Biology at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Skaper has authored/co-authored over 300 research papers (h index = 55, 2018), book chapters and monographs, as well as having guest-edited six journal thematic issues and two volumes of Methods in Molecular Biology on neurotrophic factors. He is Editor-in-Chief of CNS & Neurological Disorders Drug Targets, the Associate Editor of the American Journal of Neuroprotection and Neuroregeneration, and a Councilor of the International Association of Neurorestoratology. His research interests focus on the role of immune cells and their interactions in neuroinflammation, in particular with regards to neuropathic pain and autoimmune demyelinating diseases like multiple sclerosis, and the development of therapeutic strategies based on natural molecules. He is a member of Sigma XI, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Alpha Chi Sigma, the Society for Neuroscience and the International Society of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism.

Apart from a very hard working neuroscientist he was a great person with high moral value and well respected by the scientific community and his friends worldwide. His friendship to his colleagues and friends was a treasure and the void created by his untimely demise can’t be fulfilled in the neuroscience community. He was a great teacher, researcher and learner. When he visits neuroscience conferences he is present in all lectures even far away from his field of interest. Such was a devotion of Dr Skaper to Neuroscience.

I met Dr Skaper for the first time in Asilomar, CA (2004) during the International Conference on Neuroprotective Agents (ICNA) and was deeply impressed by his scientific acumen and knowledge. In this series we also travelled with him for ICNA to Asilomar, CA (2010), Quebec city (2012), Charlottesville, VA (2014), and Bilbao (2016). He was supposed to participate ICNA in Estes Park CO, USA October 28-31, 2018 followed by San Diego CA Society For Neuroscience (SfN) November 3-7, 2018 but as ill luck would have it he couldn’t make it. Dr Skaper was a dedicate member of the SfN, Washington DC, USA for the last 27 years (Since Anaheim, CA, SfN October 25-30, 1992). He received special mention and recognitions by the society after completing his 25 years of continuous service to SfN at the San Diego, CA Annual Conference November 12-16, 2016. I invited him to Uppsala for Global College of Neuroprotection and Neuroregenartion (GCNN) in March 2016 followed by our intense association with many other congresses including Society for Study on Neuroproctection and Neuroplasticity (SSNN) founded by Dafin F Muresanu from Romania. Skaper was the permanent faulty member of SSNN and participated in several congresses with us including Prague (2013), Athens (2014), Cancun, Mexico (2015), and visited Romania almost each year with us and presented key papers that were highly acclaimed by peers and the students as well. He was an active council member of International Association of Neurorestoratology (IANR) founded by Hongyun Huang from Beijing, China and participated with my wife Aruna Sharma and me in several congresses of IANR in Xi’an, China (2012), Bucharest, Romania (2013) and Bombay, India (2014). I invited him for 1-day Neuroprotection congress in Delhi India (2014) and we travelled together during his maiden India visit. Besides these he visited with us Amino Acid Conference (Vienna 2015) and Neuropharmacology Congress in Milan (2017). We have very fond memories of him and know him more personally about his kindness, support and active work life.

Persons like Dr Skaper are rare now a days with regard to his methodological approach to neuroscience, editing scientific papers and writing research article for publications. He is missed by enormous worldwide colleagues, friends and peers. He liked Romania very much and schedules to visit for the International School of Neurology in which he was a regular participant with me since 2008 and supposed to arrive Eforie Nord, a black sea resort on 28th June 2018. That never metalized. This has led to shock for all the organizing committee members and faculty. Dr Skaper sent his final chapter on 21st June for publication in Progress in Brain Research edited by Aruna Sharma and me to be published in 2019. That was the last communication from him to me.

Together with all colleagues and friends who are aware of Dr Skaper we pray for his soul and wish that this give strength to his wife Laura to bear this unbearable event in her life!

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1996-3181/18 $58.00+.00 © 2018 Bentham Science Publishers