

# **ZOLA P. HOROVITZ, Ph.D.**

October 24, 1934 - January 2, 2024

Dr. Zola P. Horovitz of Pittsburgh, PA, Princeton, NJ and Boca Raton, FL passed away peacefully at his home on January 2, 2024. He attended Taylor Allderdice High School in Pittsburgh, PA and was elected to the school's Hall of Fame in 2010. He received his B.S. in Pharmacy, Masters and PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Pittsburgh, where he was elected a distinguished alumnus in 1983.

In 1959, Dr. Horovitz joined the Squibb Institute for Medical Research as a research fellow and in 1962 he joined the permanent research staff as Senior Investigator. As Director of Pharmacology Research, he formed and led the team comprised of world-renowned scientists Drs. David Cushman, Bernard Rubin, Miquel Ondetti and Prof. John Vane, leading to the discovery of Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitors. The team was among the first to learn that peptides from the Brazilian Pit Viper snake lowered blood pressure in patients. This finding helped lead to the first orally effective, widely prescribed drug Captopril, successfully used in treating hypertension, heart failure and some forms of diabetes. In 1996 The American Heart Association presented him with a Discovery Award for this monumental work.

His additional work included coordinating the development of Pravastatin, with the Japanese company Sankyo, a drug that lowered cholesterol and widely considered one of the first licensed and approved statins. At Bristol-Myers Squibb, Dr. Horovitz later held positions of Associate Director of Research and Development and Vice President of Development, Licensing and Business Development.

He was also significantly involved in the development of the anti-cancer drug Taxol, in addition to Metformin, which became the largest prescribed non-insulin drug for type 2 diabetes. He went on to lead the Bristol-Myers Squibb/Sanofi joint venture that produced Plavix, at one time the second largest selling pharmaceutical drug in the world.

Dr. Horovitz retired from Bristol-Meyers Squibb in 1994. Afterwards, he continued working as a consultant and served as Chairman and Board member of numerous pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies including Genaera, Phyton and Biocryst. He held visiting professorships at Princeton University, Rutgers University Medical School, and University of Pittsburgh and Rutgers Schools of Pharmacy. Dr. Horovitz authored over 50 scientific publications and received the A.E. Bennett Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry.

In addition to a distinguished scientific career, he was active in community affairs, serving on the East Brunswick School Board of Education, East Brunswick Youth Guidance Committee and President of the Princeton Jewish Center.

He leaves behind his wife of 65 years Marlen; along with his children Bonna (Joel) and Reid (Marlene); sister-in-law Jane Miller; and loving grandchildren Alex, Doug, Jesse, Emma, Aryn and Dean. He was predeceased by his sister Janice; and brother Arnold.

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