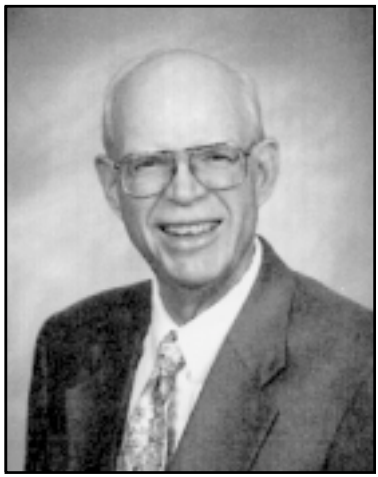
In Memoriam



Joseph Noval, Ph.D.

June 14, 1930 – June 3, 2001

I first met Joe shortly after he had been awarded his degree in biochemistry and pharmacology from Rutgers University, Institute of Biochemistry. Dr. Nolan D. C. Lewis, one of my mentors, was director of the Neuropsychiatric Institute of New Jersey, followed by Dr. Joe Tobin. Dr. Noval became Director of Neurochemistry. This New Jersey research group was the first and perhaps only group to show any interest in the work we were doing in Saskatchewan on the adrenochrome hypothesis of schizophrenia. Early in the 1960s Humphry Osmond became director. Dr. Carl Pfeifer was in charge of their pharmacology research unit. Because of our close relationship I often visited Princeton and had many opportunities to meet with these eminent research scientists.

Dr. Noval and his associates cooperated with us in the study of the biochemical and physiological properties of adrenochrome, at that time a taboo topic since the National Institute of Mental Health, had blacklisted any research with adrenochrome and tried to prevent Drs. Tobin and Noval from doing this research. However, Dr. Tobin was determined and went ahead, even though he was threatened that he would not get any research grants.

Joe worked closely with Dr. Carl Pfeiffer until 1971, he later joined the staff of the medical school at Temple University, investigating cardiovascular disease until 1986. For the next three years he taught medical recertification classes for doctors at University of Pennsylvania, and in 1989 he joined Ventures in Philadelphia where he worked with prostate cancer research. Following retirement he became interested in orthmolecular treatment, working as a consultant at Earth House near Millstone, NJ, until his death.

After a long hiatus, I met Joe again at the annual Nutritional Medicine Today Conference over the past two years and he retained his interest in orthomolecular medicine. I am sorry he is gone. Joe knew that adrenochrome, which he had studied long ago, is a major factor in schizophrenia and perhaps other diseases, and he would have been very pleased that its role is becoming increasingly recognized.

–A. Hoffer M.D., Ph.D., FRCP(C)