Volume 70, Number 1
Printed in the U.S.A.
(ISSN 0148-916X)

OBITUARY

GERALD P. WALSH, Ph.D.

1935–2001

Gerald (Gerry) P. Walsh, was born in Trenton, New Jersey, and died in Frederick, Maryland on 12 May 2001. He was 65. For three years he had struggled valiantly with a brain tumor (gliomatosis cerebrei).

He was buried in the cemetery at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he took his college training and graduated *magna cum laude* in 1957 with a degree in biology. In 1960 he received his master's degree in bacteriology and in 1962 his Doctor of Philosophy in experimental medicine from the St. Thomas Institute of Advanced Studies, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He and his wife Geraldine Lee Van De Ryt were married in 1960.

After completion of his graduate studies, he was the Diagnostic Bacteriologist at the New Jersey Department of Health in Trenton, 1962–1966. Then, with his wife and children, Gerry went to the Philippines where he served as Assistant Laboratory Director at the Leonard Wood Memorial (LWM) Research Laboratory in Cebu, 1967–1968. Returning to the States, he worked as Assistant Microbiologist and Research Associate in Professor Dr. John Hanks' Department of Pathobiology, at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore.

In 1970, Dr. Walsh became the Laboratory Director at the LWM Leprosy Research Laboratory in Cebu, where he and his family lived until 1972.

Dr. Walsh joined the Gulf South Research Institute (GSRI) in New Iberia, Louisiana, in 1972, as Associate Scientific Director, and Director of the Microbiology Department. Here he began many years of experimental leprosy work on the nine-banded armadillo and was a principal figure in the development of this mammal as a model for the study of leprosy. During this time he collaborated closely with Dr. E. E. Storrs and others at GSRI, and with Dr. Chapman H. Binford and colleagues at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) in Washington.

While I had known Dr. Walsh since 1968, it was in 1975 that we began a lifelong friendship, sharing gains and losses alike in our efforts in experimental leprosy. While some of our mutual studies stirred controversy, Gerry persevered and made many significant contributions in many facets of leprosy research. Over time, the armadillo became recognized as a useful laboratory animal for studying leprosy and other mycobacterial diseases, and Dr. Walsh one of the world's experts in its husbandry.

One of his notable contributions to the field of leprosy research in 1974 was his primary role in the detection of *M. leprae* infection in the wild armadillos that inhabit many parts of the southern United States, including especially Louisiana and Texas. The postulation that leprosy could be a naturally-acquired infection among wild armadillos was contested by many leprosy researchers. This was widely confirmed eventually and is now an important chapter in the annals of leprosy research. Later, Walsh was a lead investigator in developing a nonhuman primate model for studying tuberculosis.

In 1978, Dr. Walsh and his family, along with his colony of armadillos, moved to the Washington DC area. Gerry became Chief of Experimental Mycobacteriology at the AFIP, under the auspices of the American Registry of Pathology. With his team of local field workers in Louisiana capturing wild armadillos, adapting them to captivity, then shipping them to Dr. Walsh's labora-