

DEDICATION

ALLAN RALPH BARR MEMORIAL ISSUE

This issue of the Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Dr. A. Ralph Barr, a distinguished medical entomologist, mentor, teacher, researcher, and long-time member of the Association. Ralph's many accomplishments were ably reviewed by Dr. Andrew Spielman in the Memorial Lecture he gave at the 1999 annual meeting of the AMCA held in St. Louis, MO. I hope this lecture will be published in a future issue of the Journal. Andy spoke of Ralph's sustained record of research productivity in mosquito biology and systematics, and commented on the significance of some of his important discoveries, such as the fact that cytoplasmic incompatibility in *Culex pipiens* L., a phenomenon then promoted by the World Health Organization as an approach to control of this species, is due to the presence of a *Wohlbachia* symbiont (Yen and Barr 1973). Another notable accomplishment of his was the publication of *The Mosquitoes of Minnesota*, illustrated by his wife, Sylvia (Barr 1958). This work is still regarded as one of the best regional treatments of mosquitoes ever written. Other details of Ralph's life and career can be found in the obituary written by Tom Zavortink and me (with Ralph's first name misspelled) in an earlier issue of the Journal (Eldridge and Zavortink 1996).

Each person who knew Ralph over the years will have his or her lasting impression of some facet of his engaging personality. Andy Spielman mentioned his argumentativeness. I agree that this is a trait that may have been well developed in Ralph's makeup, but I always found it stimulating, enjoyable, and never demeaning. I will always think of Ralph's vast knowledge of science and his careful and exacting approach to research. When some question about proper usage of a scientific term, a scientific name, or a statistical procedure arose in my work, Ralph was always the first person I would call. I always got an answer, although usually the conversation would expand well beyond the origi-

nal question. In this regard, I should mention Ralph's little-known 1979 publication on the proper usage of epidemiologic terms (Barr 1979). In many ways, I feel that this publication is illustrative of Ralph's broad-based approach to medical entomology. In today's world of reductionist, highly specialized approaches to medical entomology, Ralph would be considered a maverick. Perhaps he was.

We attempted to include in this issue reports of research that would have interested Ralph, and ones about which he would have enjoyed making critical comments. Because of the broad scope of his interests, this was actually an easy task. He certainly would have liked the fact that many of the articles discuss research done in overseas areas, because so much of his research was international in scope. He would have paid careful attention to Oda's article on the *Culex pipiens* complex, because much of our current understanding of this complex is based on Ralph's earlier work (Barr 1957).

Ralph's lively wit and the enjoyable conversions with him on a wide variety of subjects will be missed by all of us. Ralph leaves a strong legacy of scholarly achievement and dedicated service to medical entomology and public health.

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