

David Rimoin, MD, PhD, long-time colleague, friend, and leader in the world of human genetics died May 27 of pancreatic cancer. Dr. Rimoin was a professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, and Human Genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Steven Spielberg Chair and Director of the Medical Genetics Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.



Born and raised in Montreal, Canada, he started his scholarly career by receiving his bachelor's degree with honors in genetics from McGill in 1957, and went on to earn his medical and master of science (in Genetics) degrees, both awarded in 1961. He trained in Pediatrics at McGill and Pediatrics and Medical Genetics at Johns Hopkins and received his PhD from Johns Hopkins in 1967 working with Dr. Victor McKusick for his work in the genetics of endocrine disorders. These studies ignited his lifelong interest in growth disorders and skeletal dysplasias. He quickly became one of the world's experts in this emerging field, established extensively used clinical services and research activities with NIH support that brought this previously arcane field into the forefront of developmental biology. He published more than 390 peer-reviewed articles, wrote, edited, or co-edited eight major books in our field. During his years at Washington University in St. Louis, Harbor-UCLA, and Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Dr. Rimoin mentored and trained more than 100 M.D., Ph.D., or M.D.-Ph.D. pre- and postdoctoral students, the great majority of whom have gone on to academic positions throughout the world, leaving a legacy that may remain unmatched in our field.

Dr. Rimoin was recognized as one of the most influential leaders in Human and Medical Genetics by being elected and honored by every organization he touched. David served as a board member of ASHG (1977–1979) and was elected president of the ASHG in 1984. He was the founding president of the American Board of Medical Genetics (1979–1983) and then the founding president of the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) (1992–1998). In 1993, he served as president of the Council of Medical Genetic Organizations and as president of the American College of Medical Genetics Foundation (1998–2002). He also received March of Dimes Colonel Harland Sanders Award for Lifetime Achievement in Genetic Sciences (1997). His global contributions have been honored with his election to the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars (1990), membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences (1992), and election to Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1997). He was the inaugural winner of the Victor McKusick Leadership Award of ASHG in 2006, given in recognition of his enduring vision, creativity, and enormous contributions to the field of human and medical genetics. A more complete commemoration of David's life and career will be published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics* shortly. David will be greatly missed by his colleagues and friends, recognizing that our community has been diminished by the loss of a giant in human genetics.

At the request of the family we share the link for memorial donations to honor the legacy of Dr. Rimoin. [www.discoveringforlife.org/Rimoin](http://www.discoveringforlife.org/Rimoin). If for some reason you cannot open the link the two places that the family has requested is the David L. Rimoin Endowed Chair and the David L. Rimoin Lectureship in Medical Genetics Education.