



OBITUARY

Stanley Philip Reimann

1891-1968

With profound sorrow, the many colleagues and friends of Dr. Stanley P. Reimann, Director Emeritus of The Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia, learned of his death in the Lankenau Hospital on February 21, 1968, at the age of 76 years.

Dr. Reimann was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association for Cancer Research from 1950 to 1953 and was Vice President (1951-1952) and President (1952-1953). He also served the Association capably as a member and often as Chairman of its Committees on Investments, Finance, Program, and Local Arrangements and was a regular attendant at the annual scientific meetings from 1931 to 1966.

Stanley Reimann was educated in his native Philadelphia at Central High School and at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1913. He interned at the Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia, was a resident pathologist at the Lakeside Hospital in Cleveland, and was a Hanna Fellow in Experimental Pathology at Western Reserve University. Upon his return to Philadelphia, he was named pathologist at the Lankenau Hospital and soon became concerned about the cancer problem, reflecting in part the influence of his father, Dr. L. P. Reimann, a general practitioner in Philadelphia.

The vision and ability of Dr. Reimann to transmit his enthusiasm to others were responsible for his most important contribution to science and medicine, namely, the founding in 1925 of the Lankenau Hospital Research Institute for the study of normal growth as well as cancer. His first partner in the scientific aspects of this project was Dr. Frederick S. Hammett, a physiologic chemist. Both men viewed the study of cancer as a fundamental problem of growth and differentiation and felt that a successful attack required the team work of biologists and chemists. To the surprise of their clinical friends at the Lankenau Hospital, the first experiments in the new research laboratory dealt with the stimulation and inhibition of the growth of pea and onion roots rather than with direct work on tumor tissue.

Many difficulties had to be surmounted during the early years of the Institute, particularly since they coincided with a period of national financial depression. Without the persistence and vitality of Stanley Reimann, it is probable that the Institute would not have survived. On several occasions he resorted to his talents as a concert pianist and raconteur to raise money for research. His charm and enthusiasm led to the formation of a Women's Auxiliary, the members of which raised substantial funds for research and also initiated an educational program on cancer for the public in the greater Philadelphia area. One of his first and foremost helpers in this project, Mrs. Anna M. Gray, is still active in this support of the Institute. Additional auxiliaries were formed in later years, mainly through the efforts of Dr. Reimann.

By the second decade of its existence, the Institute had attained world-wide recognition due to the foresight and energy of the Reimann-Hammett team. Growth of the research organization continued steadily, and in 1945 The Institute for Cancer Research was formed with Dr. Reimann as Scientific Director. A few years later the research staff moved into greatly expanded quarters at the present Fox Chase location. Again, the principle of conducting basic research in biology, chemistry, and physics and the conviction that an understanding of the processes of growth and development would ultimately provide necessary knowledge for the conquest of cancer were uppermost in Dr. Reimann's thinking and actions. Despite the attacks of critics, he steadfastly defended these ideas; it is pleasant to record that many of these critics eventually recognized the validity of this approach to cancer research.

Recognition from various sources came to Dr. Reimann during his 32 years as Director and Scientific Director of the Institute. He was appointed Professor of Surgical Pathology in the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Professor of

Oncology at Hahnemann Medical College, Chief of Clinical Oncology at Lankenau Hospital, and consulting pathologist at the Jeanes and the American Oncologic Hospitals. In 1937 he received the Ward-Burdick Medal from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists in recognition of his contributions to the basic sciences, and in 1957 the Strittmatter Award of the Philadelphia County Medical Society was bestowed upon him for his contribution to the art and science of medicine. Honorary doctorate degrees were conferred upon him by the Hahnemann Medical College (1945) and the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (1950). Dr. Reimann held a variety of important positions with the American Medical Association, the Philadelphia County and the Pennsylvania State Medical Societies, the American and Philadelphia Colleges of Physicians, the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (President 1946–1947), and other national societies concerned with various aspects of pathology. From 1948 to 1960, he served on the Council on Scientific Assembly of the American Medical Association (Chairman 1958–1960) and played a major role in the organization of the general scientific programs for the semiannual meetings of this society. Dr. Reimann was active in several social organizations, such as the Union League of Philadelphia and the Pocono Lake Preserve, in addition to his work with various musical organizations.

In 1957, having reached the age of retirement, Dr. Reimann was appointed Director Emeritus of the Institute for Cancer Research. In his honor, the Women's Auxiliary established the Stanley P. Reimann Fellowship Fund for advanced studies in the general field of growth. Stanley Reimann, however, was not ready to retire from active participation in matters involving cancer. He immediately accepted a Fulbright lectureship and went to India to deliver a series of lectures and to participate in tumor clinics of the type that he had introduced many years earlier at Lankenau Hospital. In 1963, in collaboration with Dr. Grace Medes, he wrote a book entitled *Normal Growth and Cancer* to add to his previous output of more than 100 medical and scientific papers on carcinogenesis, wound healing, chemotherapy, cancer control, and care of the cancer patient. His chief preoccupation was the continuation of the work that he had accomplished so effectively since 1925, namely, to interest people in the nature and significance of cancer and to raise funds in support of cancer research. There is general agreement that few persons could approach Dr. Reimann's forcefulness and clarity of expression in conveying information about cancer to lay groups in particular.

Dr. Reimann will be greatly missed by the generation of scientists who had the privilege of working with him. All of them express their personal regrets to his wife, Elsie Bein Reimann, to his two daughters and sons-in-law, and to his six grandchildren. Only rarely does anyone receive the degree of respect and devotion that was accorded Dr. Reimann by his scientific colleagues and many other close friends. A portrait of Dr. Reimann was completed and unveiled two months before his death; it hangs in the lobby of the Institute he founded and will remind the staff and visitors of the dedication of this pioneering and inspiring leader of the Research Institute from 1925 to 1957.

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Cancer Research

The Journal of Cancer Research (1916–1930) | The American Journal of Cancer (1931–1940)

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