



Clarence G. "Hank" Thompson
1919 - 2001

Dr. Clarence Garrison "Hank" Thompson passed away at his home in Corvallis, OR, on July 16, 2001 at the age of 82. He was survived by his wife, Irma, whom he married in 1955 (and who passed away on December 21, 2001), son, Grant of Seattle; daughter, Kay of Forest Grove, OR; brothers, Ted of Salem, OR, and Norman of Dallas; sister, Margaret Fowler of New Bern, N.C.; and two grandchildren.

Hank was born in Corvallis, and except for a three-year period in his early childhood when his family lived in California, spent his pre-adult life in that city. He attended Corvallis schools, graduated from Corvallis High School in 1936, and received a bachelor's degree from Oregon State College, now Oregon State University, in 1940.

Hank was in the U.S. Army during World War II, serving as a Lieutenant in the 17th Airborne Division, in the course of which he parachuted behind enemy lines during the Battle of the Bulge. As Hank later modestly described to me his activities at that time, he had landed in the midst of a German machine gun nest, and was surprised when the gunners surrendered rather than shoot him. He then spent the next few hours sitting on a hill watching the action going on below him before rejoining his unit.

On returning to civilian life, Hank entered graduate school in the Department of Entomology at the University of California at Berkeley, majoring in Insect Pathology under the direction of the late Dr. E. A. Steinhaus. The first student to earn a graduate degree under Dr. Steinhaus, he received a Master of Science in 1947, and a Ph.D. in 1950, studying the potential use of entomogenous pathogens in the control of pests of field crops, particularly the alfalfa caterpillar, in the central valleys of California. On completing graduate work, he embarked on a career in professional entomology, specializing in the areas of insect pathology and microbial control, that would span the ensuing 30 years of his active life.

Hank's first professional position was as an academic researcher in the Laboratory of Insect Pathology directed by Dr. Steinhaus at UC Berkeley in 1950. For the next four years, during the first two of which I served as his technician, he continued to carry on his microbial control studies, and was the first to apply an insect virus to control insect pests of forage crops under field conditions. He also used *Bacillus thuringiensis* in his studies.

In 1954, Hank left Berkeley to accept a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Entomology Research Division, at Beltsville, MD. His assignment was to establish a new pioneering insect pathology laboratory that would expand basic and applied work at the federal level in the area of insect pathology/microbial control.

In 1960, Hank returned to Corvallis to join the U.S. Forest Service as a research entomologist, with a primary assignment to establish and direct a new insect pathology research unit within the Forestry Science Laboratory that was located on the campus of Oregon State University. The primary goal of his group was to conduct studies of diseases of insect pests of forests and determine the potential of selected pathogens in microbial control efforts. A major concern was to find a means of controlling the Douglas-fir tussock moth, a serious pest of Douglas-fir in western North America. Extensive laboratory and field studies by the research team under his direction over many years culminated in 1976 in the development of a virus product and its registration by the Environmental Protection Agency for use as a microbial insecticide against infestations of tussock moth larvae. That was a major achievement in the advancement of microbial control practices as a meaningful part of twentieth-century pest control. Closely associated with this study was the research on virus outbreaks in tussock moth populations. This is one of the most outstanding and fundamental investigations in insect virus epizootiology. For these accomplishments, Hank received the USDA Superior Service Award in 1977.

At Corvallis, Hank participated in the teaching program of the Department of Entomology at Oregon State University by offering a course on Insect Pathology, that has been described as being both 'excellent' and 'rigorous.' Many graduate students who took his course were most fortunate to be able to gain an insight into insect pathology/microbial control as only a person with his experience could present. Hank also served as major professor to at least one graduate student, that being Dr. James D. Harper.

After thirty years of active life as an entomologist, first at Berkeley, then Beltsville and finally Corvallis, Hank chose to retire in 1980 so that he could spend more time doing things he enjoyed in the Corvallis area, such as hiking, fishing, rock collecting, and nature photography, plus traveling on occasion to faraway places such as the Galapagos Islands.

During our annual Christmas Greetings exchanges over the years, Hank wrote time and time again that he was most fortunate in being able to state that he remained "disgustingly healthy" and able to continue the many outdoor activities that he loved. When no message was received at year-end 2000, I began to suspect that maybe twenty years of good life in retirement was coming to an end. This was confirmed many months later by word of his death.

In writing this obituary, I have not referred to him by his formal name of Dr. Clarence G. Thompson, beyond the introduction, because I have known him since our student days in the late 1940's as just plain "Hank." Where that name emanated from, I do not know, but when we first met, he said "just call me Hank," and that I have done over the past fifty plus years. We saw each other only infrequently at meetings over the years, and kept in touch most often by year-end seasonal greetings, but I continued to see him as a most competent scientist in the field of insect pathology and microbial control, and above all, a good friend. Hank, you will be missed, but not forgotten.

Irvin M. Hall

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With additions by James D. Harper, Yoshinori 'Joe' Tanada, and Kay Thompson

Roslyn Cabot, 1950 - 2008



Roslyn Cabot, a long-time friend of SIP and wife of SIP member Jean-Louis Schwartz, passed away peacefully on January 15, 2008, after a courageous struggle with cancer. She was 57 years old. She leaves behind her soul mate Jean-Louis, and her sons Justin (23), Alexandre (20) and Jonathan (17), as well as many relatives and friends.

Roslyn was born in 1950 in St. Laurent, Quebec. In her professional career, she worked in the health care field, where she initially practiced physiotherapy, and then eventually became the Executive Director of the Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital in Montreal, Quebec. In 1999 she established her own private health care services business, which flourished and expanded under her expert, caring and energetic direction. In addition to work, her interests included, first and foremost, her family. In addition, she enjoyed outdoor activities such as sailing, camping, downhill skiing, rollerblading and ice skating, as well as concerts, theater, reading and socializing with friends.

Many SIP members will fondly remember Roslyn from countless meetings, where her warmth, her enthusiasm for SIP, and her boundless energy for everything from sampling

the local cuisine, to engaging people in intense conversation, to exploring new places — on bicycles, boats or on foot — was the basis for much fun and many long-term friendships. She was an active and important part of the planning for our highly successful 2007 meeting in Quebec, a contribution that we will always thank her for.

The photo above, which was taken at the SIP's 2006 meeting in Wuhan, shows Roslyn as I will always remember her — smiling, vibrant and enjoying life. She will always be an important and lovely part of SIP's history. Roslyn's family asks that those wishing to honor her memory consider donating to the Montreal Neurological Institute at McGill University (<https://www.alumni.mcgill.ca/aoc/onlinegiving/?allocations=00645-02337-01944> or telephone 514-398-1958). Please specify that you wish to make the gift in honor of Roslyn Cabot and that the donation should be used in support of the Neuro-Oncology Clinic.

Liu Niancui 1914 - 2008



Professor Liu Niancui passed away on February 8th, 2008, in Wuhan, China, at the age of almost 94. Professor Liu was one of the leading Chinese virologists from 1940 to the 1980s and life-long collaborator and wife of Professor Gao Shangyin.

Professor Liu was involved in the early development of the first ever insect cell lines, from *Bombyx mori*. She reported the first infection of these cell lines by a baculovirus in 1958, together with Professor Gao and Professor Xie Tien An. Professor Liu worked at Wuhan University from 1947 and, over the years, served as Director of the Laboratory of Insect Virology and Director of the Faculty of Microbiology.

A detailed account of her achievements and contributions to invertebrate pathology was given during the Founders Lecture¹ at the SIP Annual Meeting of 2006 held in Wuhan. At the end of the Lecture Professor Liu accepted the Honoree's certificate on behalf of her late husband, Professor Gao Shang-yin, and everyone present vividly remembered the fragile but mentally strong person responding to this honor in perfect English. After her husband died in 1989 she divided her time between China and the USA, where three of her four

children are living, enjoying family life and keeping in touch with scientific developments through the numerous former students of her late husband.

We commemorate a remarkable innovative scientist and a very nice person who felt privileged to have such a long and interesting life.

Hu Yuanyang and Hu ZhiHong

State Key Laboratory of Virology, Wuhan University and Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

¹ J.M. Vlcek, 2007. Journal of Invertebrate Pathology 95:152-167.

