

X...  
hot →  
draft.  
↓  
Edwin  
Leibert  
5/31/89  
etc

The Rockefeller University Campus Community  
President Joshua Lederberg

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Professor Ernst Friedheim died in his 89th year, on Friday, May 26, in his home following a brief illness. He continued to be active in the laboratory until the very end, having returned from a research conference in Kenya only a month ago.

whitened

Dr. Friedheim's first association with our university was in 1930, when he studied with Leonor Michaelis in biophysics. He had an M.D. from Zurich, and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Geneva, where he conducted most of his scientific research, principally on the chemotherapy of parasitic diseases. In 1978 he returned to the Rockefeller University, and remained here as a Visiting Professor, giving us the benefit of his incomparable experience in field and laboratory on the properties and uses of organo-arsenicals.

He is perhaps best known for the development of melarsoprol, which remains today as one of the most effective drugs for the treatment of trypanosomiasis (African Sleeping Sickness). More recently, he worked on chelating drugs for the treatment of poisoning by heavy metals, and their accumulation in the choroid plexus with aging. His current studies were on the accumulation of arsenicals in tumors, and exploiting this phenomenon both for radiodiagnosis and therapy. Many people regarded arsenicals (and antimonials) as too toxic to be useful; he showed that this mythical phobia was no better deserved than for many other drugs commonly used for difficult challenges, and many lives have benefitted from his pragmatic insights.

Funeral services are private.

Dear Jack - to tell you right away.

I was worried his heart would give out; instead it was a sudden, rapidly growing renal CA.

He was most grateful for the chance to stay in harness to the end and he certainly deserved that benefit.

May 28, 1989

Love, John.