



Arnold Brossi, 1923–2011: Arnold Brossi, an NIH Scientist Emeritus who headed NIDDK's Medicinal Chemistry Section from 1976 to 1991, died on July 16 at age 88. Brossi was widely recognized as one of the godfathers of alkaloid chemistry and an extraordinary mentor. An eminent organic chemist, Brossi for over 20 years was affiliated with Roche, where he was Director of its Chemical Research Department, both in Nutley, New Jersey, and at the company's world headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, before joining the NIH as a Visiting Scientist in 1976. His major research interests included the synthesis and study of biologically active natural products as well as drugs used in malaria chemotherapy, cancer and neuropsychiatric disorders. He authored or co-authored more than 400 scientific papers and is an inventor of many patents.

A life-long believer in international cooperation, Brossi directed the research of over 40 postdocs from 17 countries while at the NIH. After his retirement from the NIH, he continued teaching and collaborating with scientists and researchers at various schools and universities, including Drew University, Georgetown University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the NIA's Intramural Research Program, among others. Brossi received an Honorary Doctor of Science Award from Bowdoin College (1984); was named an Honorary Member of the Polish Chemical Society (1988); received the Charles Mentzer Prize from the French Society of Medicinal Chemistry (1989); the Alfred Burger Award of the American Chemical Society (1990); was made an Honorary Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan (1990); became an Honorary Member of the American Society of Pharmacognosy (1991); was elected an Honorary Doctor of Science from Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland (1993); received the Medal of Merit, Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic (1994); and was recognized as an Honorary Member of the New Swiss Chemical Society (1997).

Brossi was born in Winterthur, Switzerland. When not indulging in his life-long "hobby" of chemistry, he was an avid fisherman, card player, gourmand, and mushroom hunter. A long-time resident of Bethesda, Maryland, Brossi passed in his sleep at Sunrise at Fox Hill. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren living in the United States and in Switzerland. Contributions may be made to the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health.

-Michael Gottesman/ Mario Brossi
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