

Horace G. 'Hank' Cutler, Ph.D., a celebrated natural products chemist whose career spanned more than half a century, died June 1, 2011 in Watkinsville, GA at age 78, after suffering from cancer. He was born in London, England, on November 21, 1932, to Sir Horace Walter Cutler, O.B.E., K.C. and Betty Martin Cutler. He grew up in London during WW II and had many memories of the blitz. Dr. Cutler attended St John's Beaumont College Jesuit boarding school in Old Windsor, Trinity College, Dublin, Columbia University, New York and the University of Maryland, College Park. At the age of 20 he immigrated to Quebec City, Canada, and then moved to New York City. In 1954 he accepted a Union Carbide Fellowship with Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research in New York. It was during a Good Friday Mass that he met Joanne Steinmetz, who also worked at Boyce Thompson. They were married in 1955. During his Fellowship he realized his passion for natural products research while working with Lawrence "Larry" King on plant growth regulators. This passion drove him to embark on a 57 year career in natural products research. While working with Dr. King, he was involved with the development of the insecticidal agents possessing carbamates, which eventually lead to the discovery of carbaryl (Sevin(r)) by Union Carbide. In 1959 he accepted a position as a Plant Physiologist with Tate and Lyle, Ltd., Central Agricultural Research Station, Carapichaima, Trinidad, West Indies. While in Trinidad he was able to work with a team of researchers that investigated a wide-swath of plants for bioactive compounds. Among other developments, this work eventually led to the development by Tate and Lyle of the sweetener sucralose that and is currently sold in the US under the trade name Splenda(r). In 1963 he enrolled in the University of Maryland to earn a Master's of Science (1963-66) and Doctor of Philosophy (1966-67) degrees in natural products chemistry. Upon graduating from the University of Maryland he was appointed Plant Physiologist with the United States Department of Agriculture - Agriculture Research Service in Tifton, GA, to develop a modest natural products program within the USDA. It was during that time that he became interested in evaluating the secondary metabolites of plants, fungi, and aquatic organisms for their biological effects. In 1981 the USDA interests in the natural products program had grown to the point where they asked him to relocate his research group to the Richard B. Russell Center in Athens, GA. This afforded him the opportunity to become more engaged with his adjunct professorship at the University of Georgia and support graduate students of various departmental programs within the university system. In the late 1980s he served on a USDA-ARS Special Committee to secure federal funding to build the Phase I of the National Center for Natural Products Research in Oxford, MS. His research group relocated to this site in 1995 when construction of the Center was completed. It was at that time that Hank retired from the USDA as a GS-15 Research Leader and volunteered his time at Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences as a Senior Research Professor. This faculty appointment gave him the opportunity to educate pharmacy students and to direct graduate students working on PhD degrees in pharmacy research. He also held an adjunct professorship at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. During his 57 year career with the USDA and Mercer University, Dr. Cutler was recognized nationally and internationally for research on the isolation of biologically active natural products from fungi and plants. He published over 200 peer-reviewed papers, 33 book chapters, 13 books, over 150 national and international scientific presentations, and more than 50 US and international patents. He served as Fellow of the American Chemical Society, was awarded the Silver Medal for Research from the Japanese Society for the Chemical Regulation of Plants, the Plaque of Appreciation for Contributions to Science by the Korean Agricultural Chemical Society, and the Abbott Pharmaceutical Award. He served as President of the Plant Growth Regulator Society of America (PGRSA) and as its Chief Executive Officer. He was a member of the honor societies Sigma Xi, Rho Chi, Phi Lambda Sigma, and Phi Sigma as well as a member of the New York Academy of Sciences, the Georgia Academy of Sciences, and the American Chemical Society. In 1989 he was selected by the American Chemical Society as the state of Georgia Chemist of the Year. The USDA-ARS recognized him in 1990 by awarding him the Outstanding Award for Performance. He was a member of the University of Georgia Catholic Center where he was a professed Secular Franciscan. For more than 40 years, he was a lector at various Catholic Churches and served as a Eucharistic Minister for much of this time. He is buried at the Honey Creek Woodlands of the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, GA. He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Joanne Cutler, seven

children (spouses), Frank Cutler, Paul (Debra) Cutler, Chris (Karen) Cutler, Kevin Cutler, Stephen (Jill) Cutler, Elizabeth "Liz" (David) Grow, and Holly (Keith) Kendrick. He also leaves behind 12 grandchildren, Brian Cutler, Loren Cutler, Chelsea Cutler, Christopher Cutler, Nina Cutler, John "Jack" Cutler, James Cutler, Elizabeth Cutler, Savannah Grow, Mary Catherine Grow, Catherine Kendrick, and Stephen Kendrick. Any contributions should be made to the UGA Catholic Center or Saint Mary's Hospice (Athens, Georgia). He wishes to thank all his friends who made life such a joy.