

Marvin H. Malone (1930-1996)

by Ezra Béjar

It is with regret that I report the sudden death of Marvin H. Malone on November 26 in Stockton, California. Dr. Malone died of a stroke that developed as a consequence of an atrial fibrillation.

Marvin Malone was a tireless harvester in the field of natural products and he had many special talents. He was a meticulous ethnopharmacologist who developed several screening procedures to test phytopharmaceuticals --such as the well-known Hippocratic Screening. He was also an extraordinary mentor practicing the old fashioned approach to the master-apprentice relationship. Marvin believed there were many consequences and responsibilities in bringing new scientists to this world --including maintaining long-term relationships with them. He was major advisor to more than forty graduate students.

Unfortunately, because of his private nature, only few of us had the opportunity to see the many aspects of his unique personality: as head of a family, as editor of scientific and literary journals, as a consultant, as a writer, as a painter, and as an art collector.

Dr. Malone was born in Fairbury, Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he received a B.S. in Pharmacy in 1951, an M.S. in Physiology/Pharmacology in 1953 and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology in 1958.

He worked four years as a research assistant in the division of pharmacodynamics at the Squibb Institute for Medical Research, under Bernard Rubin. There he got involved in the design of bioassays to test Rauwolfia and Veratrum alkaloids. In 1958 he was hired as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology at the College of Pharmacy at the University of New Mexico. In 1961 he became Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Connecticut, and in 1969, a Professor at University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where he retired in 1990. A prolific writer, he published more than 240 articles including scientific papers, abstracts, historical reviews, book chapters and a textbook. Dr. Malone was also the editor of the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, the Journal of Ethnopharmacology and the Wormwood Review, a literary magazine. He also served on the editorial boards of many scientific journals including the Journal of Natural Products (Lloydia), Economic Botany, Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. He was affiliated with more than 20 professional and honoray societies and received, among other honors, the Outstanding Educator of America Award. He was an active member of the American Society of Pharmacognosy since 1962.

Among his most important contributions was the establishment of a strategy for the screening of ethnopharmaceuticals. This approach includes a rational ethnobotanical search for plant materials, the evaluation of crude plant materials using Hippocratic Screening -- a multidimensional screening in intact animals-- and the use of a

confirmatory pharmacodynamic screening to test autonomic effects and how to determine toxicity and side effects. His contributions also include the development of methods to test antiinflammatory agents, the screening and pharmacological evaluation of the toxic principles of higher fungi and alkaloids from *Heimia salicifolia*.

Marvin is survived by his wife Shirley, his daughter Christa, and his two granddaughters Sierra and Erica.

We shall all miss Marvin H. Malone. But as suggested in one of his postulates about one's head, art and science, he will be always present in spirit. These postulates delicately touch on the differences and similarities between art and science. One reads: "Art initially based on what is real and true can have life of its own and can survive the death of its creator. So also for science. To the extent that art and science exist, they are virtually synonymous -- they give meaning to their creators' lives. They allow one to share what's within one's head."