

January 10, 2016

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Dear ISACB Membership:

It is with great sadness that I share the news with you that our friend and colleague, the **founding president of ISACB, Dr. Allan D. Callow, M.D., Ph.D.**, passed away on December 22, 2015. The link below accesses the obituary describing his extraordinary life and contributions, and provides a link where condolences can be left:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?n=allan-callow&pid=177056292>.

Allan was 99 years old and is survived by his wife, another friend and colleague of ISACB, Dr. Una Ryan. Allan and Una were key to the inception of ISACB in 1987 and Allan served as the Society's founding president from 1989-1992. The ISACB Young Investigator Awards given at the 14th ISACB Biennial Meeting in Cleveland in April 2014 were named in Allan's honor to recognize the important contributions that he made not only to the Society, but to the field of applied cardiovascular biology as a whole, and his unwavering support of trainees. We were also pleased to have Allan greet the delegates of the 14th Biennial Meeting via recorded video, which can be found posted at <https://youtu.be/ADBtttpRZX0> and also on the ISACB Facebook page.

Allan not only was a tremendous clinician-scientist, but an officer and gentleman. He served in World War II after being called to duty following completion of medical school and an internship at Harvard. Allan recalled his days in the service and how it shaped his future in a note to the Allan Callow ISACB Young Investigator Award nominees that appeared in the program of the 14th Biennial Meeting:

"I experienced seven assault 'Storm landings' with the Marines and MacArthur's army, from Tarawa to Iwo Jima. Combat—being shot at—teaches you 1) to discard the trivial, and 2) that you can remain effective even when scared stiff. Eventually someone recommended my promotion and I became a Rear Admiral and acquired two stars and my flag. My war years revealed the dreadful lack of both basic knowledge and clinical ability to deal with vascular trauma. The discipline of vascular surgery did not exist. An arterial wound could not be repaired in WWII and, if in an extremity, the arm or leg would have to be amputated. I spent two and a half years in a surgical laboratory learning to repair damaged arteries and searching for the ideal biomaterial to serve as a vascular substitute. The damaged artery either by trauma or arteriosclerosis needed study in depth. These were exciting times when a plastic tube could be so modified that it could duplicate a normal artery."

When the news of Allan's passing first came to his friends at ISACB, the heartfelt

Letter from David A. Vorp, Ph.D., ISACB President

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- page 2 -

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responses were very poignant and revealing of what Allan meant to so many in our field. Dr. Peter Zilla, ISACB's third president (1994-1998) and fellow contributor since the Society's founding wrote: *"Allan was truly the father of ISACB - and of many aspects of vascular surgery. He was a role-model for my generation, teaching us how to get old without getting old."*

Dr. Bo Risberg, another original and long-time member of ISACB wrote: *"Allan was indeed the father of ISACB. At the original meeting in Mala-Mala he turned a proposed endothelial seeding society into something much bigger and vivid: ISACB He was the backbone of the Society for nearly 30 years."*

Dr. Michael Walker wrote: *"My memories of Allan are of a true gentleman, a wonderful colleague, whose achievements as an academic clinician and researcher were remarkable. He was a bon viveur par excellence and I am sure all of us will treasure the memories of his company and companionship. The ISACB will always be synonymous with Allan. It was truly a privilege to have known him."*

Dr. Howard Greisler, ISACB president for five terms (1998-2006; 2010-2012) wrote of his fond memories of Allan: *"When I was a surgery resident, I identified Allan as a role model and 40 years later, I still feel the same way. He has always been the ideal academic surgeon, a leader scientifically, a leader clinically, a leader organizationally, and, always, a hell of a nice guy! His perspective was global. He shifted the emphasis on merely endothelial cell seeding to the focus on applied cardiovascular biology in general, but in actuality that too understates his goals and achievements which also addressed international health care challenges and the very nature of the academic clinician. He was indefatigable. I always looked forward to our evenings together at conferences, having cocktails and telling stories and concocting ideas, but then much later in the evenings, me wondering how to get back to my room to sleep since Allan, despite our age difference, would always remain full of energy far beyond my need for sleep. Then I would always look forward to our next evening doing the same."*

For me, personally, I'll never forget the thrill I had when I met Allan for the first time in 1998 at the 6th Biennial ISACB Meeting in Wildbad Kreuth, Germany. He sat next to me in a horse-drawn sleigh that transported the delegates to an alpine cottage for dinner. How down to earth and genuine this giant in the field was to me; really, to anyone, no matter their standing!

Some have asked how they can honor Allan. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy "in honor of Allan Callow". This can be done online (www.parksconservancy.org) or by mail (Attention:

Letter from David A. Vorp, Ph.D., ISACB President

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- page 3 -

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Audrey Yee, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, California 94123). A memorial and celebration of Allan's life will be held in the Presidio of San Francisco, overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge under which Allan both departed to serve in the Pacific in WWII, as well as returned safely home. Further details of the event may be made available upon request.

We will remain indebted to the vast contributions left behind by Dr. Allan Callow and will greatly miss the amazing human being that he was.

Sincerely,



David A. Vorp, Ph.D.
President, ISACB
(on behalf of the ISACB Executive Council)