

In Remembrance

Progress in any field is built upon foundations established by major thinkers who have gone before. In this issue, we would like to take the time to recall the important contributions of three pioneers in the field of intellectual/developmental disabilities who passed away recently and their lives: Jeanette Holden, Arthur Dalton and Joseph Berg. These three individuals are indeed giants upon whose shoulders we stand. The legacies of Drs. Holden, Dalton, and Berg will continue to positively impact the lives of persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, as well as guide and inspire professionals, researchers and students for many years to come.

Jeanette J. A. Holden

Jeanette was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her undergraduate and graduate degrees were in genetics. Prior to settling in Kingston, Ontario, in 1978, she conducted research at several prestigious scientific institutions in Europe, and was lecturer at the University of British Columbia. Since 1986 Jeanette was Director of the Cytogenetics & DNA Research Laboratory (and the Autism Research Laboratory) at Ongwanada, Ontario, and Professor of Psychiatry and Physiology at Queen's University. In 2001 she became Program Director of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Canadian-American Research Consortium (ASD-CARC), a team that has received substantial grants from a number of major Canadian funding agencies. Jeanette was described by her PhD supervisor, Dr. David Suzuki as "one of the brightest and most driven students that I ever had." In her career, Jeanette has made huge contributions through her important work on the genetics of autism spectrum disorders and other forms of intellectual/developmental disabilities. She contributed much to the community, serving on boards of Autism Ontario and Autism Society Canada. She also played a key role in development of a Virtual Community of Autism Stakeholders. Her work in the developmental disabilities field was inspired by her brother, who is affected by autism, and her family. Jeanette was a recipient of the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities (OADD) Hull-Roeher Award of Merit for her significant contribution in the field of developmental disabilities in Ontario and also of the OADD Research Special Interest Group Research Award of Excellence.

For more information about Jeanette, see also:

Autism Spectrum Disorders Canadian-American Research Consortium (ASD-CARC). (2005-2011). *In memory of Jeanette J. A. Holden*. Retrieved from <http://www.asdcarc.com/index.php/publisher/articleview/?PHXSESSID=4007bc215691eb2b85533f04bd195bd7&/1/frmArticleID/477/staticId/1511/>

Arthur J. Dalton

Arthur was born in Alberta, Canada. His university training was at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. From an early age, he was an avid amateur astronomer. With dreams of a career in rocket science, Arthur first trained as a chemist, but switched to psychology after accepting that colour blindness would be a significant impediment to a fuel chemist. After becoming a behaviour psychologist, Arthur spent many years at Surrey Place Centre, Toronto, Ontario, as Director of Behaviour Research and Deputy Director and appointed to the University of Toronto Department of Physiology. In Toronto, Arthur established a mobile clinic for older persons with Down syndrome in a refurbished Bluebird bus, and he pioneered research to further understanding the relationship between Down syndrome and the unusually prevalent premature dementia that is characteristic of this population as well as the aging process among adults with intellectual disabilities. Arthur also gave much to the community. While based in Toronto, he was one of the founders of the Alzheimer Society of Canada, of which he served as a President. His vision was instrumental in co-founding of the University of Toronto Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases with his colleague Donald R. McLachlan. In 1990, Arthur took a sabbatical leave to develop an aging research program at the New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental disabilities (IBR/DD) in Staten Island, New York, and was persuaded to remain there. Prior to retirement from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, he was Director of the Center for Aging Studies at the IBR/DD. Arthur's ability to develop screening instruments and to collaborate and mentor have had great impact in the field of dementia generally. His clinical and research contributions, which include articles, book chapters, and a seminal text on dementia and aging in the developmental disabilities, are internationally recognized. Most recently, he was co-principal investigator with Paul Aisen and Mary Sano of a National Institutes of Health-funded international, multicenter clinical trial to determine if the administration of vitamin E would slow down the cognitive and functional decline in older persons with Down syndrome. Arthur believed that international projects such as this one will be key to developing effective strategies for combatting complications of aging in older persons with Down syndrome.

For more information about Arthur, see also:

Janicki, M. (2013). *Arthur Dalton obituary*. Retrieved from the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry website at <http://aadmd.org/articles/dr-arthur-dalton-obituary>

In memory of Arthur J. Dalton. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Arthur-Dalton&lc=1391&pid=165454417&mid=5576593>

Joseph M. Berg

Joe, psychiatrist and medical geneticist, grew up in South Africa. He graduated from the University of Cape Town with a master's degree in psychology in 1948 and completed his medical training in 1954. His involvement in the field of developmental disability began as early as 1957. After spending one year as a visiting professor in the University of Toronto Department of Psychiatry, Joe was invited to become Director of Research at the Mental Retardation Centre (later called Surrey Place Centre) in Toronto with a cross-appointment to the University of Toronto Department of Psychiatry. Joe was based at Surrey Place for the rest of his life. After retirement as Director of Medical Services and Research, Joe continued his affiliation with Surrey Place as medical consultant, member of the Research Ethics Board, and key investigator of the Primary Care Initiative led by Dr. Bill Sullivan. Joe had a particular research interest in Down syndrome, and his pioneering helped to demystify the basis not only of Down syndrome but also of developmental disabilities generally. His activities spanned many areas and included invitations to share his teaching expertise internationally as well as locally, clinical service development, genetic counselling, education, research and ethics. He was a renowned teacher, mentor of students and colleagues, supervisor of medical residents and graduate students, and author/editor. Joe often humourously remarked that he had a pen attached to his brain and could not stop himself from polishing any article a colleague or student gave him to read, much to the trepidation but usually gratefulness of the aspiring author. Family members of persons with developmental disability also were recipients of Joe's vast wisdom and expertise. His efforts have improved provision of health care services for persons with developmental disabilities in a major way and also raised awareness of their needs among primary care providers. Joe was recipient of the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities (OADD) Hull-Roeher Award and the Surrey Place Centre June Callwood Award.

For more information about Joe, see also:

Findlay, S. M. (2013). *Sad News – Dr. Joseph M. Berg*. Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto. Retrieved from <http://www.psychiatry.utoronto.ca/news-announcements/sad-news-dr-joseph-berg/>
theStar.com. (2013). *Dr. Joseph M. Berg*. Retrieved from [http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/thestar/guestbook.aspx?n=joseph-berg&pid=165804663&cid=vi
ew#sthash.Y8oEc2lu.dpbs](http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/thestar/guestbook.aspx?n=joseph-berg&pid=165804663&cid=vi
ew#sthash.Y8oEc2lu.dpbs)