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63

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Foreword

This volume is dedicated to the memory of the late Professor WERNER BRAUN, one of the most devoted and active members of the Editorial Board of the Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology, who passed away, after suffering a heart attack, in November 1972.

Dr. WERNER BRAUN was born in Berlin, Germany, on November 16, 1914. During his highschool days in Berlin he did research work on problems of genetics as a young guest in the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Biologie, in the department of Prof. R. GOLDSCHMIDT. I remember his colourful description of his discussions during this period, while still a teen-ager, with OTTO WARBURG. He studied biology and medicine at the University of Göttingen and received a Ph.D. degree in biology in 1936.

In the same year he left Nazi Germany and came to the United States first as a Guest Investigator in Genetics at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and then in Berkeley, where he carried out his work in the Departments of Zoology and of Veterinary Science until 1948. He was engaged during this period in the study of problems concerned with physiological genetics, bacterial variation, immunology and biochemistry.

In July 1948 he became Chief of the Microbial Genetics Branch of the Biological Laboratories in Camp Detrick. In 1955 he was appointed Professor of Microbiology in the Institute of Microbiology at the Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, a position he held until his death.

Dr. WERNER BRAUN also served for many years (1957–1968) as a Visiting Professor, University of Puerto Rico Medical School, and held a similar position at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem during 1962–1963. In 1969–1970 he divided a sabbatical year between my laboratory at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, and the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

He is the author of over 200 publications in scientific journals, editor of several books, a contributor to textbooks and encyclopedias, and the author of “Bacterial Genetics”, first published in 1953 and in its second edition in 1965. He received many awards, including honorary lectureship awards at several leading universities. He served as chairman of the American Academy of Microbiology (1968–1969), as Chairman of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health (1969–1970), and a member of the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council (1970–1971). He also served as a member of several editorial boards and was a consultant to many government agencies and pharmaceutical corporations.

Dr. WERNER BRAUN was a renowned microbial geneticist whose research interests centered on problems of cellular immunology, physiological genetics, microbial genetics, and oncology, with special reference to the nature and regulation of immune responses, control of tumor growth, host-parasite interactions and microbial population changes. During the past few years he applied microbiological approaches with great originality to the study of cellular immunology and cancer. His studies on microbial population changes, especially in the case of *Brucella*, are classical, and led him to the investigation of the nature and regulation of immune response with possible application to the control of the growth of tumors.

WERNER BRAUN had abundant enthusiasm, enjoyed an intelligent and lively conversation, and was a born story-teller, be it an anecdote or a vivid and colourful description of some exciting new laboratory experiments or of the latest scientific achievements in some laboratory he had recently visited. He loved art, and possessed an interesting collection of modern painting, including, i. a., work by several modern Czech and Israeli artists. He had a tremendous personal vitality, and everything he did was done with gusto. He enjoyed life, whether teaching or planning research, travelling for fun or attending conferences.

WERNER BRAUN was an outstanding leader, a great scholar, a successful teacher, a beloved colleague, a devoted friend. He is survived by his wife and lifelong companion, Barbara, and by three daughters. His memory will be cherished by all those who had the opportunity to be exposed to his thoughts, his enthusiasm and his leadership, and this certainly includes his colleagues on the Editorial Board of the Current Topics of Microbiology and Immunology as well as the directors of the publisher, Springer Verlag.