Paul M. Aggeler, M.D.

DR. PAUL M. AGGELER died of lung cancer on September 1, 1969, at the age of 57. He was born in Ferndale, California and was closely associated with the University of California all of his professional life. He graduated from Berkeley in 1933 and received his M.D. degree in 1937. He rose to the rank of Professor of Medicine in 1964 and in 1965 was selected by his colleagues to be the Ninth Faculty Research Lecturer, the highest honor the faculty can bestow on a member.

He practiced medicine in San Francisco from 1946 to 1963 and instituted research hematology at Children's Hospital where he was Chief of Medicine from 1955 to 1962.

He had been a member of Study Sections for the National Institutes of Health from 1958 to 1966 and at the time of his death was Chairman of the Hematology Study Section. He was a member of the executive committee of the American Society of Hematology and a member of the International Committee for Hemostases and Thrombosis. He belonged to over a dozen scientific societies and held editorial positions for Hemostase, Thrombosis et Diathesis Haemorrhagica and Transfusion.

He was recognized throughout the world as one of the foremost authorities in the field of coagulation. Seventeen years ago he initiated a scientific explosion in the dormant field of hemophilia by the discovery of an important variant which he termed “plasma thromboplastin component” or PTC (Factor IX) deficiency. His continued efforts contributed greatly to the development last year of an injectable concentrate of Factor IX produced in powder form for treatment of this kind of hemophilia. In recent years his most important contributions were the demonstration that hemophilia too mild to be detected by the whole blood clotting time is as common as severe hemophilia, and can be a serious clinical problem; the evaluation of the turnover rate of transfused clotting factors; an analysis of the metabolic turnover of coumarin drugs and its effect on the response of the prothrombin time; the first description of hereditary resistance to a drug (Coumadin) in man; and a description of a new qualitative platelet defect.
An important aspect of his work was the talent for successful collaboration. In his company other workers displayed their best traits. He inspired dedication and taught respect for biologic phenomena. One of his associates claimed that he violated natural law by being both enzyme and substrate of the working unit. As a teacher he knew how to criticize severely without offending. He had infinite patience and the knack to ask the kind of questions that sent a young man to find more data or material without being told to do so. He successfully launched young people on investigative careers.

Paul touched the lives of all those with whom he came into close contact. He personified integrity, and in a world of uncertain values, his special qualities of intelligent curiosity, wit, dedication, gentleness, candor and unceasing effort in the search for truth were a source of strength to all of us.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Dorothy Meeker Aggeler, and two daughters, Candace and Mrs. Timothy (Judy) Power, both of San Francisco.—Ralph O. Wallerstein, San Francisco, Calif.
Obituary: Paul M. Aggeler, M.D

Ralph O. Wallerstein

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