Max M. Strumia

MAX M. STRUMIA of Bryn Mawr Hospital died on January 13, 1972. Dr. Strumia was well-known for his work in red cell preservation and the determinants of blood volume. He was among the pioneers in developing techniques for freezing red cells. One remembers his cherished desire that preservation of red cells in the frozen state would become clinically feasible and practical. This has been accomplished.

For most of his life Max was associated with the Bryn Mawr Hospital, a community hospital outside of the academic and university mainstream. Yet his accomplishments were significant providing an eloquent demonstration that progress in research depends on the man. His scientific ability and judgment were such that his counsel was widely sought. He served on and was Chairman of the Committee of Blood Transfusion of the National Research Council–National Academy of Science; he was also a member of the Hematology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health and the Committee on Blood of the American Medical Association. He was the recipient of the Burdick Award of the American Society of Clinical Pathology and received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Vermont and Turin.

At a scientific gathering Max’s straightforward, penetrating comments were at times disarming but always respected and much to the point. He was perhaps more critical of his own work than that of others, an unusual but valuable attribute. Few of us realized that despite his enormous and varied scientific accomplishments, Max found time for diversion in mountain climbing, at which he was an expert, and for painting and copper plate etching.

The hematological community will miss Max and our sympathies go out to his family and particularly to his son Paul who follows in his footsteps at Bryn Mawr Hospital.

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