
Resolution on the Death of Professor *Emeritus* Bruce R. Downey (October 15, 1939 - April 4, 2018)



Professor *Emeritus* Bruce R. Downey passed away peacefully on April 4, 2018, following a prolonged illness. He was 78. *Following a career of thirty years at McGill, that included terms as Chair of the Department of Animal Science and Director of the Bellairs Research Institute, Bruce retired in 2004.*

Born on October 15, 1939, Bruce grew up on a small mixed farm near Pakenham, Ontario. After obtaining a DVM from Ontario Veterinary College in 1963, he worked briefly at a mixed veterinary practice in Smithville (Ontario), and later for the Hamilton District Cattle Breeding Association. He then spent eight years as a Senior Scientist at Ayerst Research Laboratories - first in their Pharmacology Department in Montreal, and then in their Animal Health Division in Chazy, NY, where he worked on *the use of prostaglandins and hypothalamic-releasing factors as potential agents for ovulation control in domestic animals*. During this time, his collaboration with Macdonald College researchers led to his joining the staff of the Animal Science Department in 1974, with responsibility for the Macdonald Embryo Transfer Unit (known today as LARU, and renowned for its nuclear-transfer and cloning research in goats and pigs). In fact, Bruce spearheaded the many ground-breaking initiatives from that unit: the production in 1973 of only the second embryo-transfer calf, born in North America; the arrival of only the third calf ever to be born from a *frozen* embryo - aptly named *Popsicle* - in 1976; and the successful *non-surgical* embryo-transfer of six calves, on the College Farm, from Macdonald Princess Oleana 3rd (1981). He was also involved in the research that produced the World's first cloned goats at LARU in 1999. With all of this cutting-edge research, Bruce also managed to complete his PhD in 1981, and was, thereafter, appointed as Associate Professor of Reproductive Physiology in the Department of Animal Science. Bruce was promoted to Full Professor in 1990, and to Professor *Emeritus* upon his retirement in 2004, crowning a 30-year service at McGill.

During his time in the department, Bruce was responsible for courses in Mammalian Physiology, Comparative Anatomy, and Advanced Reproductive Physiology; he was involved in numerous research initiatives, supervising some twenty graduate students along the way, and producing more than 70 refereed publications. He was particularly active in CIDA projects that allowed him to share his expertise in many parts of the world - China, Egypt, Hungary, Jordan, and Zimbabwe. He served two terms as Chair of the department (1985 - 1995) and finished his illustrious career as Director of the Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados (2001 onward).

Bruce was an avid golfer and, in recent years, took up curling to replace his many years playing ice hockey, mainly on McGill staff teams. He was a former Warden and long-time member of the choir at St. George's Anglican Church, and a member of the Baie d'Urfe Curling Club and the Braeside Golf course in Senneville. He will be greatly missed by Peggy, his wife of 55 years - herself, a former Associate Professor in McGill's Department of Physical Education - his sons Steve, Mike, and Tom, as well as his eight grandchildren Melissa, Andrea, Thomas, Jenna, Katelyn, James, Joel, and Marla.