# Death of Dr. Charles A. Barraclough

## Email Announcement

Dear SSR Friends and Colleagues:

This morning, we received the sad news of the death of our good friend and colleague, Dr. Charles A. Barraclough, on April 19, 2009. Dr. Barraclough was an internationally recognized researcher and award winning pioneer in the field of neuroendocrinology. He was a member of the faculty of the Department of Physiology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine for 32 years (1962-1993), and acting Chair from 1972-73.

Charlie was a founding member of the Society for the Study of Reproduction, a Director (1971-73), chaired the Budget & Finance Committee in 1971 and 1973, and was a member of the Awards Committee in 1981.

He received the SSR Research Award in 1984 and SSR's highest award for lifetime achievement in reproductive science, the Carl G. Hartman Award, in 1990.

Friends may call at the Mitchell-Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc. (http://mwfuneralhome.com/), 6500 York Road (at Overbrook Road, Baltimore), on Friday, April 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., and proceed for a memorial funeral mass to be offered in the Immaculate Conception Church, Baltimore and Ware Avenues, Towson, MD 21204 at 11:30 a.m.

Bob

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## Dr. Charles A. Barraclough, 82, Neuroendocrinologist

Dr. Charles A. Barraclough, a retired physiologist and internationally renowned neuroendocrinologist from the University of Maryland School of Medicine died April 19, 2009, of cancer at St. Joseph's Medical Center. He was a Campus Hills resident in Towson for over 46 years and was 82.

Dr. Barraclough's seminal scientific observations involved studies on the brain and how neonatal male sex hormone exposure (testosterone) permanently alters the brain control of reproductive processes in both males and females.

Born in Vineland, New Jersey, and raised in Hammonton, New Jersey, he was a 1944 graduate of Hammonton High School. Thereafter, he attended St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he received his BS degree in Biology in l947. He also was an accomplished pianist, and the next two years was involved in a music career before entering Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, where he obtained his Master's Degree in l952 and his Ph.D. Degree in l953 in endocrinology.

He then joined the Department of Anatomy, UCLA Medical School, as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Charles H. Sawyer and in l954 he was appointed Assistant Professor. It was during these years that he began his important studies on sexual differentiation of the brain.

In l961, Dr. Barraclough received a Special Research Fellowship to continue his studies at the University of Cambridge England with Drs. Barry Cross and Martha Vogt. In l962 he was appointed Associate Professor in Physiology within the School of Medicine, University of Maryland, and Director of the Animal facility within the School of Medicine. In l965, he was elevated to full Professor within this Department of Physiology. From l974 to 1993 he also was Director of the Reproductive Biology Training Program. From l969 to 1970 he was appointed as a Special Research Fellow to continue his research within the Department of Pharmacology, University of Milan, Italy. In 1985 he was instrumental in establishing the Center for Studies in Reproduction within the medical school, and was appointed Director of this Center. The purpose of the Center was to capitalize on promising research already underway in reproductive biology within several departments within the school. In l985, because of his numerous contributions to the School of Medicine, he was selected to present the Chancellor's Colloquium to the faculty of the medical school. Dr. Barraclough retired in l993, and was then appointed Professor Emeritus within the School of Medicine.

Throughout his career as both a teacher and a researcher, Dr. Barraclough continued to study how neurotransmitters within the brain regulate hypothalamic neuropeptides to alter pituitary gland secretions and ultimately the function of the ovary to promote ovulation. He also observed that estrogen and progesterone feed-back within the brain to regulate neurotransmitter function such that, at midcycle, ovulation occurs. He published 136 original peer-reviewed papers and contributed 28 chapters in scientific books. He also was responsible for the advanced education of 46 graduate (M.S., Ph.D.) and postdoctoral fellows from many countries of the world. He also contributed to the education of over 5000 medical students in both gross anatomy and medical physiology.

Because of his expertise, he was appointed a member of the Reproductive Study Section, Division of Research Grants, National Institute of Health, from 1967 to 1969, and again from 1970 to 1974. He was chairman of this Study Section from 1969 to 1970.

Dr. Barraclough was a member of the Endocrine Society and served on the editorial board of Endocrinology; he was also a member of the Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, the American Physiological Society, the Society of Neuroscience, and the Society for the Study of Reproduction.

Because of Dr. Barraclough's important research contributions in the field of reproduction, in l984 he was awarded the Research Award by the Society for the Study of Reproduction and in l990 he received the highest award bestowed by this society, the Carl G. Hartman Award. It is presented in recognition of an outstanding career of research and scholarly activities in the field of reproductive biology. Also, because of his contributions to the advanced training of Hungarian scientists, in l990 Dr. Barraclough was honored by being inducted into the Hungarian Endocrine Society.

Dr. Barraclough was an avid golfer and a longtime member of the Country Club of Maryland. He also enjoyed gardening and music.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, two daughters, Janet McCarthy and Patricia Weisselberg, and four grandchildren.