In Memory of Richard C. Knudsen

Jonathan Y. Richmond

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Richard C. Knudsen died early in the morning on February 21, 2002 after a noble and heroic struggle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, two children, and three sisters.

Rich earned his PhD in Microbiology in 1971 from the University of Arizona and then completed a 2-year National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Naval Medical Research Institute (NMRI) in Bethesda. He held positions in research at NMRI and the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) in New York. Rich then focused his attention on biological safety, first at PIADC and then at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, serving for 11 years as Chief, Laboratory Safety Branch and as Biological Safety Officer.

During his professional career, Dr. Knudsen published 40 scientific papers on foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever research and an additional 20 papers of biological safety interest. He was a recognized national and international expert on biological safety and a highly sought-after speaker.

Dr. Knudsen was very involved with the American Biological Safety Association. He served in various capacities, including President and Editor of Applied Biosafety. He served as a guest editor for the 4th edition of the CDC/NIH publication, Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories. Rich was also an active mentor to ABSA members and others who sought his advice on biological safety matters.

Rich had also been very involved with the Boy Scout program in Atlanta as well as on Long Island. He coached several soccer teams and was always available to support his team members off the field as well. He will be missed by many.

A memorial fund has been established by the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) to recognize excellence in scientific publication by its members. Those wishing to make donations in Rich’s memory should make their checks payable to “American Biological Safety Association—R. C. Knudsen” and send them to: 1202 Allanson Road, Mundelein, Illinois 60060-3808. This professional association was a fundamental component of Rich’s career as it provides a forum for the exchange of biosafety information, expands biosafety awareness, and promotes biosafety as a scientific discipline.