

Mort Mendelsohn (1/10/20)

<https://lists.purdue.edu/pipermail/cytometry/2020-January/054851.html>

Sad news - I am passing on the message I got from Laura Johnson, Mort Mendelsohn's daughter. Mort was 94 years old. I first started to work with Mort in May, 1964 - a long time ago. He was a presence throughout my career as mentor, colleague and friend. He created the Society for Analytical Cytology, as ISAC was then known, and possibly more than anyone else was responsible for establishing cytometry as a scientific discipline with its own journal. We all owe much to him.

Brian [Mayallbrian at mayall.com](mailto:Mayallbrian@mayall.com)

Hello to Mort's Friends,

I am writing to let you know Mort passed away in his sleep early this morning 1/10/2020. He had taken a fall yesterday evening and was heavily sedated, so he was not in pain.... Please pass this news on to his friends. He was a remarkable man and I loved him dearly,  
Laura Johnston

On Jan 13, 2020, at 9:43 AM, J. Paul Robinson <[jpr at flowcyt.cyto.purdue.edu](mailto:jpr@flowcyt.cyto.purdue.edu)> wrote:

*Sad news indeed. Mort was one of the foundation members of ISAC. I am not sure how many of the newer folks in the field of cytometry recognize his name...he was one of the editors of what was the first real "bible" of cytometry - the big yellow 800 page book "Flow Cytometry and Sorting" Edited by Myron Melamed, Tore Lindmo and Mort Mendelsohn which was published in 1979 with a second edition about 1990. Howard Shapiro's first Edition of "Practical Flow Cytometry" (printed on a dot matrix printer I might add) came out in 1984.*

I have some really wonderful photos of Mort that I took at the 1998 ISAC meeting in Breckenridge. If you go to the ISAC website you will see a page that outlines the history of the Society <https://isac-net.org/page/Our-History> <<https://isac-net.org/page/Our-History>> - while the formation of ISAC was before I knew what a flow cytometer was, I understand that Mort was the first President of the organization created in 1979 that actually formed what became the Society for Analytical Cytology (SAC) in 1980. The "I" was added to SAC to make it ISAC some years later, and in the early 2000's the name was changed to the International Society for Advancement of Cytometry, to reflect the direction the Society was going. It is interesting to note that more than half of the founders focused on imaging not flow cytometry....

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*Mort was one of the several foundation members who created what was eventually ISAC as you all know it today.*

*Let us not forget that we are privileged to stand upon the shoulders of great people like Mort Mendelsohn. I met Mort in the mid-1960's, when he, Brian Mayall, and Judy Prewitt were at Penn, scanning white cells with a blue CRT beam that prevented them from using standard stains. Then, there were few enough people working with computers in medicine that we all went to the same meetings at the New York Academy of Sciences yearly. I had been doing some pattern recognition with EKGs, but my new bosses at NIH decided I should graduate to two dimensions and build them a fancier scanner, so I was made assistant project officer on the Penn project. Mort (and Brian) were shortly to move on to Livermore and shift emphasis toward flow and genetics. The rest is not history.*

What people call the 3M books (Paul Mullaney was the original middle editor of the First Edition, which I suppose should now be called the Dead Sea Scrolls of flow cytometry). They were in enough demand that I had to reclaim one of mine from somebody who swiped it.

During our original encounters, Mort was a little skeptical about flow, but he certainly didn't turn out that way. Lucky for us.

-Howard

I was so very fortunate to meet Mort in the beginning of my cytometry career. He was someone I looked up to in awe! A truly great man and scientist. My deepest sympathy to his family and our cytometry family. Anne [Hurleyahurley193 at aol.com](mailto:Hurleyahurley193@aol.com)

In a message dated 1/12/2020 2:38:37 PM Eastern Standard Time, [brian at mayall.com](mailto:brian@mayall.com) writes: