

In Memoriam: David Derse

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David Daniel Derse, Ph.D.



David Derse, head of the Retrovirus Gene Expression Section in the HIV Drug Resistance Program, died October 9 of liver cancer. Born in Los Angeles, California, on December

22, 1949, Dr. Derse earned his Ph.D. in 1982 from the State University of New York at Buffalo, studying inhibitors of herpesvirus and cellular DNA polymerases in the laboratory of Dr. Yung-Chi Cheng. He conducted postdoctoral research on bovine leukemia virus gene regulation with Dr. James Casey at the Louisiana State University Medical Center.

After joining the National Cancer Institute in 1986 as a senior staff fellow,

Dr. Derse continued research on the Tax and Rex proteins encoded by deltaretroviruses. In 1991, he became a tenured senior investigator and extended his research into comparative biochemical analyses of lentivirus Tat and Rev proteins.

Dr. Derse joined the HIV Drug Resistance Program in 2004 as head of the Retrovirus Gene Expression Section. He was also an adjunct professor in the Graduate Program in Genetics at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and served on the Editorial Boards of *Virology* and *Retrovirology*, and on the Executive Committee of the Center of Excellence in HIV/AIDS and Cancer Virology, Center for Cancer Research.

During his 25 years at the National Cancer Institute, he investigated the molecular mechanisms of retrovirus infection and replication, concentrating most recently on the human viruses HIV-1 and HTLV-1. In 2007, Dr. Derse and his research team discovered how HTLV-1 evades the body's natural defenses to fight off infection, a finding that may eventually lead to improved

antiviral therapies and new strategies for preventing some types of cancer.

Dr. Derse's scientific intelligence was grounded in a great love of the natural world and a kindhearted spirit. Soft-spoken and reserved by nature, he also enjoyed a whimsical sense of humor. At the heart of his character was his admiration for fellow scientists who were both accomplished in their work and generous, positive, and authentic in the wholeness of their lives.

He found great joy in his time with his grandsons, and he enjoyed running, hiking, fly-fishing, reading, and travel. He was proud to be a native Californian, and that showed in his appreciation for California artists, scenic places, and iconic images.

A longtime resident of Frederick, Dr. Derse is survived by his wife, Hye-Kyung (Kate) Chung; son and daughter-in-law, James and Carrie Derse, and their two sons, Lucas and Gideon; his sister, Kathleen Ruccione, and her son, Daniel; brother, Leonard Derse; and members of the extended Derse, Chung, and Lucas families. ■

Web Sites of Note

By Ashley DeVine, Staff Writer

Throughout our newsletter, you'll find web sites that provide you with more information than we can put in our articles. In addition, many days, weeks, and months are devoted to the recognition of particular health care issues. We've selected a few dates that seem most pertinent to NCI-Frederick. We've also listed some web sites to help you improve your health through exercise and nutrition.

January

Cervical Health Awareness Month: <http://www.nccc-online.org/awareness.html>

National Blood Donor Month: http://www.aabb.org/Content/Donate_Blood/Donate_Blood_Public_Education_Initiatives/National_Blood_Donor_Month/nbdm.htm

February

National Wear Red Day: February 5: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/educational/hearttruth/materials/wear-red-toolkit.htm>

National Cancer Prevention Month: <http://www.aicr.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=14377>

National Donor Day: February 14: http://www.organdonor.gov/get_involved/nationaldonorday.htm

Health-related Web Sites

Exercise and Physical Fitness from MedlinePlus: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/exerciseandphysicalfitness.html>

CDC Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/index.html>

USDA: Food Pyramid Guidelines: <http://www.mypyramid.gov/>

Harvard School of Public Health: Staying Active – The Nutrition Source:

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/staying-active/>