

Professor Leland “Skip” Carmichael (1930-2021)



It is with great sadness that I heard of the passing of Professor Leland “Skip” Carmichael an expert on canine infectious diseases, who died July 27, 2021 in Ithaca, USA. He was 90 years of age.

I had the honor of visiting his laboratory in Ithaca and learning about his achievements in the field of canine virology and in particular canine parvovirus. At that time he had developed with Max Appel a modified canine parvovirus

vaccine that curbed a global pandemic in the early 1980s, and is still in use today. Following this visit I had the honor of sharing two publications with him on the subject of maternal immunity and immunization response to canine parvovirus and canine distemper virus in puppies, using a clinic-based enzyme linked immunosorbant assay.

He visited Israel when I first met him, invited by the Israel Companion Animal Veterinary Association. I got to know him only superficially and was amazed to hear how much he knew about our country and how enthusiastic he was about Israel.

His lectures were absolutely enthralling, full of information and innovations. For us, to be hearing first hand from the one of “Cornell’s all-time greats” was both an honor and experience. Especially notable about him was his sense of humor and wit, accompanied by his intelligence.

It is relevant that in this current edition of the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine we report the first outbreaks of *Brucella canis* in Israel. It was in 1966, that Prof. Carmichael and colleagues were the first to describe the disease and identify the pathogen, which led to effective controls and treatments.

It is said of him that had done “more for the health of animals than anyone since [Louis] Pasteur.”

We in Israel extend our condolences to his family members and many friends.

Dr. Trevor Waner

Editor: Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine