Memorial Service to be Held for the Late Professor Geoffrey R. Howe

Geoffrey R. Howe, PhD, a beloved member of the Mailman School faculty, passed away on August 31. Dr. Howe was the former Chair and the first Anna Cheskis Gelman and Murray Charles Gelman Professor in the Department of Epidemiology of the School. A distinguished leader in the field of epidemiology, he was also a devoted teacher. A memorial service will be held on November 15.

Dr. Howe was internationally renowned for his work in the areas of cancer and the environment, and nutrition. He was one of the world's foremost radiation epidemiologists, whose investigations of cancer incidence among atomic bomb survivors helped change the fundamental assumptions about radiation risk. Based on his research, the National Cancer Institute selected him to head research on the effects of the Chernobyl accident.

A gifted mathematician and prolific scientist, he was also among the leading scholars on the effects of diet on cancer, particularly cancers of the breast, colon, and pancreas. Dr. Howe was recruited to the School's Department of Epidemiology as a professor and department chair in 1995. Dr. Howe was a skilled classroom teacher and a dedicated mentor and supervisor of doctoral students. Despite the challenge of his blindness, he lectured from slides without notes and led his students through detailed critiques of research methods and tables of statistical analyses.

Prior to joining the Mailman School, Dr. Howe served as the Director of the National Cancer Institute of Canada, Epidemiology Unit. He also held an appointment as professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics at the University of Toronto, where he developed and taught graduate level courses on research methods in epidemiology, cancer epidemiology, and biostatistical methods. He received a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Leicester in England.

The Mailman community extends its deepest sympathy to his wife, Deborah, his two sons, his daughter, and his grandchildren.

The memorial service for Dr. Howe will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at 2 pm in the Pauline A. Hartford Memorial Chapel. A reception at the P&S Faculty Club will follow.
For further information about the memorial service, contact Ann Schein by email at as16@columbia.edu, or by phone at (212) 305-4601.