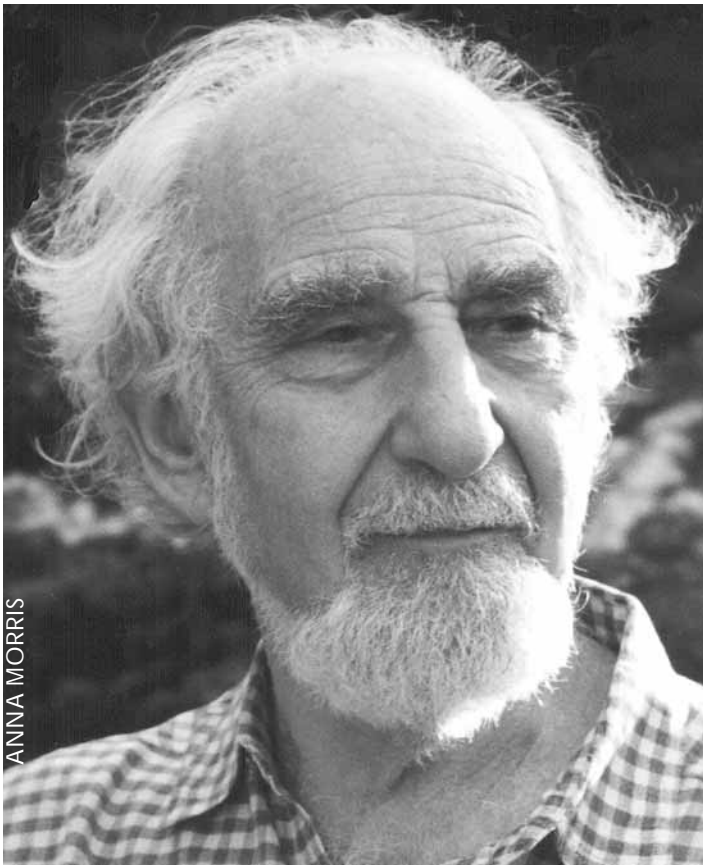


Remembering Great Ophthalmic Scientist Dr. David Maurice



David M. Maurice 1922-2002

David M. Maurice, M.D., world-renowned ocular physiologist and member of the Department of Ophthalmology, died of liver cancer in Manhattan on July 20, 2002. He was 80 years old. "We will miss his dry humor and innovative and creative intellectual power," says Stanley Chang, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology.

As a young man, Dr. Maurice studied physics at the University of Reading in Berkshire, England, then earned a Ph.D. from London's University College in 1951. His distinguished research career began at the University of London and carried him to many academic centers throughout the world, the University of Rome, Harvard, Hadassah Medical

School in Jerusalem, the University of Paris, the University of California at San Francisco, Stanford and Columbia University. He became Professor of Ocular Physiology at Columbia in 1993, and was a fully active Adjunct Professor since 1996.

Dr. Maurice's work covered many areas, including eye pain, mechanics, myopia, retinal detachment and movement. One of his greatest contributions to ophthalmology is the confocal specular microscope. Modified versions of this device, used around the globe for diagnosis prior to cataract removal and laser eye surgery, allow doctors to measure a living cornea's thickness and determine which cells are healthy by scrutinizing individual cells, one layer at a time.

He also invented a novel method of measuring aqueous humor flow in the eye that has been instrumental in the research of glaucoma. His advances in this area revolutionized glaucoma treatment, and virtually every major investigator of glaucoma pharmacology was either a pupil or collaborator.

In 1998, Dr. Maurice published a celebrated paper suggesting that rapid eye movement

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(REM), long believed to be a sign of vivid dreams, is caused by the eye's need for oxygen.

Dr. Maurice received numerous honors and awards, including the Von Sallmann Prize, the Friedenwald Award, and the Prentice Memorial Medal of the

American Academy of Optometry. "When I started my research, there were many gaps in our understanding," said Dr. Maurice in a 2001 interview. "I was drawn to filling them in."

He will be remembered for his charm, care and insight. His disarming wit was capable of livening up the dullest of meetings. His freedom of spirit and a total dedication to the questions that puzzled him made him an inspiring icon of eye research.

"He was a remarkable model for all who were fortunate enough to work with or around him," says Dr. Peter Gouras, Professor of Ophthalmology in the Department.

Dr. Maurice is survived by his wife Anna Morris; his daughters Celia, Julia and Ruth, and their mother Carlotta Maurice; and four grandchildren. SH

