IN MEMORIUM

Ruth Sanger was born June 6, 1918, in Queensland, Australia. She was educated at Abbotsleigh School in Sydney and Sydney University. She joined the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in Sydney in 1940 and worked in the blood plasma drying plant and then in the blood grouping laboratory. She went to England after the war and worked for a year with the famous blood group researcher Dr. R.R. Race at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Blood Group Unit in London. Dr. Sanger completed her PhD at London University in 1948 and returned to Sydney. In 1950, she returned to Lister Institute to work with Dr. Race, whom she married and with whom she collaborated until his retirement in 1973. Dr. Sanger continued as director until her retirement in 1983. Her contributions to human blood group research are beyond enumeration. One of her contributions was coauthorship of one of the most important texts ever published about blood groups, *Blood Groups in Man*, by Drs. Race and Sanger. Six editions were published and it was the bible of blood groups for more than 30 years. Ruth Sanger was brilliant and erudite, and she had a marvelous dry humor that could be discovered in her writings and her interaction with her many friends and coworkers. Because of the exciting work at the MRC Blood Group Unit, people from around the world came to study and work with Dr. Sanger and her group. The unit played a central role in defining most of the hundreds of blood group antigens identified over 40 years.

Dr. Sanger received many awards for her work, and she became an honorary member of many societies around the world. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1972, and she and Dr. Race received the Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award, the highest honor awarded by the American Association of Blood Banks.

Dr. Sanger was warm, kind, intelligent, and charming. She was particularly kind and encouraging to new serologists and investigators and she will be remembered with great respect and affection by all who were privileged to know her.