

Former NTP scientific counselor Carney dies unexpectedly

By Eddy Ball

Friends and colleagues at NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death Jan. 12 of toxicologist Edward Carney, Ph.D., at age 55. Carney, who served on the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors 2008-2011, collapsed on the Pere Marquette Trail near his home in Midland, Michigan, while enjoying one of his regular runs there.

Carney was technical leader of Developmental, Reproductive, and General Toxicology at Dow Chemical Company. He had worked in product safety and predictive toxicology for more than 22 years and was very active in the toxicology community. Carney held leadership positions in the Society of Toxicology and Teratology Society, where he formed lasting personal and professional relationships with NTP and NIEHS scientists.

Friends and colleagues reflect on a life well lived

“Ed will be missed by so many of the people he touched throughout his short life, including those in the toxicology community,” said NIEHS and NTP Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D. “In his work as an NTP scientific counselor, he brought a valuable perspective to our deliberations and a delightful sense of humor to our discussions.”

“I knew Ed quite well from his dedicated work as president of the Teratology Society and from our familiar circles at Cornell University,” said NIEHS health scientist administrator Thaddeus Schug, Ph.D. “Ed was a fun-loving person and an excellent scientist, and he was very beloved by all of us who knew him.”

“I had the opportunity to work closely with Ed,” added leader of the NTP Developmental and Reproductive Toxicology Group Barry McIntyre, Ph.D. “He was a fine scientist, with a kind heart and warm smile. I will truly miss his perspective and humor.”

A long record of service to toxicology

In addition to his work with NTP, Carney held positions on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chartered Scientific Advisory Board, the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods Science Advisory Board, the Hamner Institute’s Board of Directors, and the U.S. Humane Society’s Human Toxicology Project Consortium. He most recently took on assignments at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and EPA National Center for Computational Toxicology.

As busy as he was, Carney also found time to serve as an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan. Along with his passion for running and other outdoor activities, he was an accomplished musician and active supporter of musical education.

A memorial mass was held Jan. 17. A devoted husband and father, Carney is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Nancy, and their three cherished sons, Alex, Kevin, and Philip. He is also survived by two brothers, and his father and stepmother.



Most attendees at NTP Board of Scientific Counselors meetings will remember Carney, left, as he appeared here in 2009 — boyishly handsome, friendly, and usually ready with a witty response. Seated with him is ad hoc member and North Carolina State University zoologist John Vandenberg, Ph.D. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



This informal photo of Carney as he prepared to board a plane appeared with the obituary posted by the Smith Minor Funeral Home in Midland. (Photo courtesy of Nancy Carney)

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