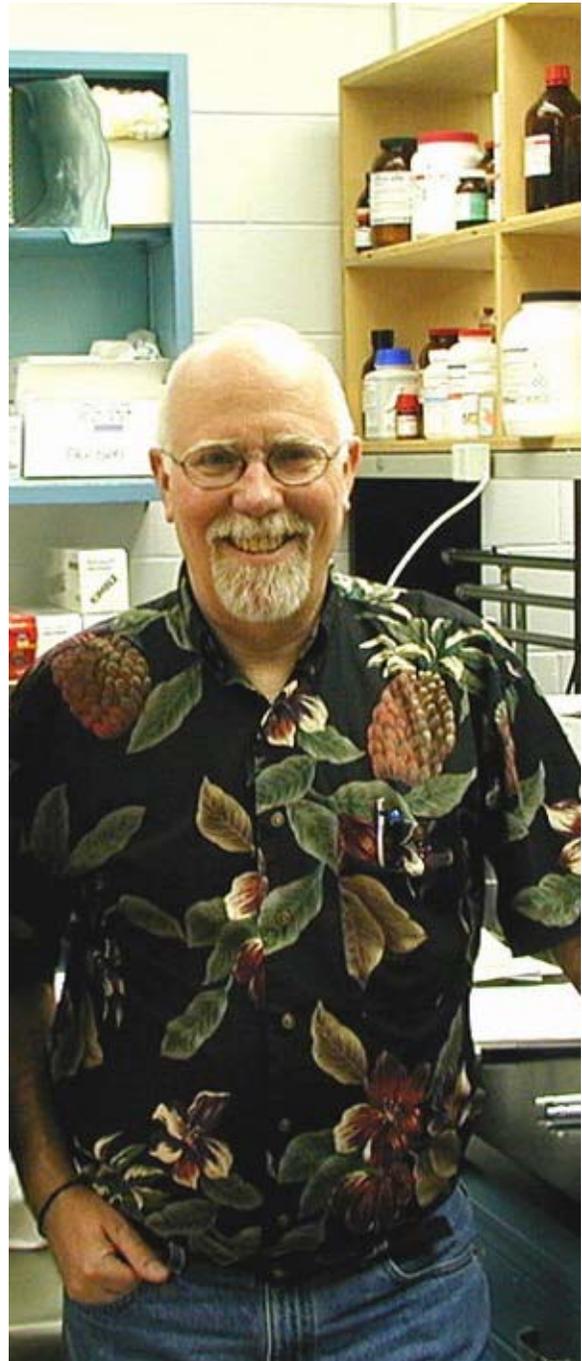


In Memoriam: Dr. Thomas Ray Jerrells

We are sad to write, to members of the American Society for Rickettsiology, that fellow member Thomas Ray Jerrells, Ph.D., died May 22, 2018. He retired as Professor of Immunology from the University of Nebraska Medical Center-Omaha in November 2011, after 36 years (1976-2011) of research.

Dr. Jerrells was a long-time member of the American Society for Rickettsiology. Throughout his research career, Tom always considered himself an infectious diseases immunologist, beginning with his Ph.D. dissertation, "Immunity to *Coxiella burnetii*: *In Vitro* and *In Vivo* Parameters," under the direction of Drs. David J. Hinrichs and Louis P. Mallavia. Early in his research career, he worked with several *Rickettsia* species. As Immunologist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (1979-1987), his investigations focused on several immunologic responses to, or mechanisms in, infections with *R. tsutsugamushi*, *R. typhi*, and *R. conorii*. His work, in collaboration with colleagues, resulted in 11 peer-reviewed publications. As Associate Professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston (1987-1991), Tom, as Principal Investigator, was awarded an NIH R01 grant, "T-Cell Mediated Immunity to *Rickettsia tsutsugamushi*" (March 1989-March 1992), and received the John Sealy Memorial Endowment Fund, "Role of Endothelial Cells in Rickettsial Immunity" (March 1988-February 1990). His work, and subsequent collaborative six peer-reviewed publications, involved studies with Barbash strain spotted fever group rickettsia, *R. sibirica* species, *R. conorii*, *R. rhipicephali*, and *R. rickettsii*. In the mid-1980s Tom turned his research direction to the effects of alcohol consumption on host immunity.



The chronology of the man, his career, and his life winds, and runs deep and wide.

Little did Tom know of his ultimate career destiny when, at the age of 14 years, he began competing in all three rough stock events (bull, saddle bronc, and bareback riding) of the professional sport of rodeo. He competed at both collegiate and professional levels until he chose to put rodeo life aside for marriage, undergraduate studies

at Northern Arizona University, and, shortly thereafter, the Vietnam War. Tom was a rich storyteller, and he shared many a rodeo story with colleagues, friends, and family during his lifetime.

Tom volunteered his service in the U.S. Army (1966-1970), a Veteran of the Vietnam War--a status he learned to embrace later in life. He was honorably discharged as Staff Sergeant. Time in the military and influential mentors gave his life not only a new direction, but also a new-found passion.

TJ (as many knew him) subsequently launched his scientific career by obtaining his bachelor's (University of Arizona), master's, and Ph.D. (Washington State University) in 6 years (1970-1976). After graduating, Tom took a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Ronald B. Herberman at the NCI, through an appointment at Litton Bionetics, Inc. Tom subsequently conducted his research in several institutions, including the Department of Rickettsial Diseases, WRAIR; as Associate Professor, joint appointments, Department of Pathology and Department of Microbiology, UTMB-Galveston; Professor, Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, Louisiana State University Medical Center-Shreveport; Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, Washington State University, where he was also Director of the Pharmacology/Toxicology Graduate Program; and Professor, Department of Pathology, University of Nebraska Medical Center-Omaha.

Dr. J was one of three co-founders of the Alcohol and Immunology Research Interest Group, a gathering he personally nurtured and that has continued since AIRIG's formation. He was Editor-in-Chief of *Alcohol: An International Biomedical Journal* (1999-2005), and during this tenure he was also a member of the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors, Council of Science Editors, and American Medical Writers Association. Tom supported research through numerous consulting positions, editorial boards, editorships, journal peer review, and committees, and he served on many NIH study section panels throughout his career.

Tom accumulated more than 250 peer-reviewed journal publications, book chapters, and scientific meeting abstracts in his name and mentored many of the next generation's great scientific minds. Many of his graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who trained with him are now leading investigators in their respective fields.

Tom was a modern-day Renaissance man who enjoyed all that life had to offer. Among those things were cooking and home brewing, running (including the John F. Kennedy 50 Mile Run), triathlon (including the Oxford Triathlon: 5 Mile Swim/18.6 Mile Run/45 Mile Bike) and other ultra competitions, music, backpacking, hunting, fishing, cold beer, flying single engine planes and gliders, skiing (water/snow), discussing the vagaries of life, New York Yankees and Green Bay Packers, poetry, his pets, and above all, his family. He loved philosophy, ethics, challenging dogma, the Socratic and Scientific methods. He hated ignorance and hypocrisy. He was a renowned distributor of knowledge, coaching motivation, home brew, and jambalaya.

Friends can visit The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration to learn about the disease that took him from us and make a donation in his name (www.theaftd.org/support-aftd).

From the Family of Dr. Thomas Ray Jerrells: Janice Jerrells (wife of 53 years) and daughter Jennifer, son-in-law Nick, and granddaughters Cassie and Abby Strachota.