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**IN MEMORIAM**

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## Aaron Feldstein, 1922–1996

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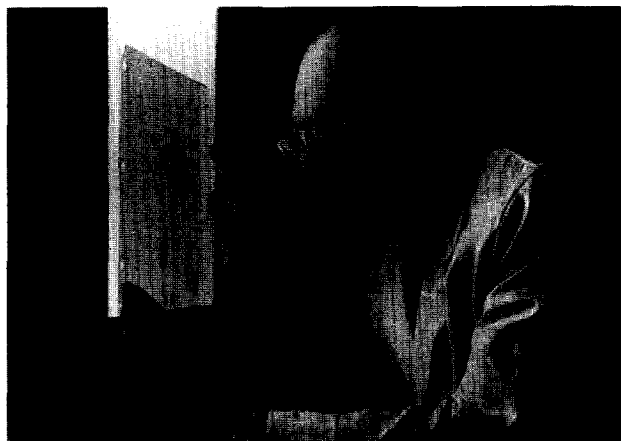
It was but recently that I learned about the passing away of Aaron Feldstein, Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, Distinguished Teacher and Researcher in Biochemistry, when I was asked to write an obituary for my deceased friend. I felt greatly honored to be able to do this, but it is also with a great deal of sadness that I write this good-bye letter to an old friend.

I met Aaron Feldstein for the first time in the summer of 1957, when I visited the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in search of a new job. When I entered one of the lab buildings, I saw Aaron walking up and down the hallway, evidently in deep thought. When I asked him what he was thinking about, he replied that he was pondering some new ideas concerning the metabolism of serotonin (5-HT). With my own great interest in this (and at that time still rather mysterious) biogenic amine, Aaron's reply signaled the start of our friendship. During my own stay at the Foundation, I saw Aaron very often walking up and down the hallways, in deep thought. I quickly found out that good and critical thinking was one of the characteristic "trademarks" of Aaron's research work. We also occasionally collaborated and wrote together an—we thought—important paper on the effect of PCPA on brain serotonin and the sleep of cats.

Unfortunately, this valuable friendship was reduced to occasional meetings after I retired from my job at the Worcester Foundation and moved back to my native Switzerland in 1968. Still, it was always a pleasure when, during my frequent visits to the New World, I could meet with Aaron to renew our relationship and to talk about the good old days.

Aaron Feldstein obtained his Ph.D. in 1952 with a major in organic chemistry and a minor in pharmacological chemistry at the University of Kansas. His work at that time was in the areas of theoretical organic chemistry and drug preparation. From 1953 till the end of 1954, he worked as a research associate at the University of Tennessee Medical School. In 1955 he moved to the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

At that place, where so many scientists encountered



such splendid research opportunities, Aaron quickly developed his "taste" for the biochemistry of alcoholism, particularly in connection with the "behavior" of serotonin. He collaborated on that with psychologists and psychiatrists. He also became involved in studies concerning the biochemistry of depression, schizophrenia, and "natural" sleep.

After a year with a pharmaceutical company, Aaron Feldstein joined Rutgers University in 1975, where he could dedicate again his whole energy (and love) to his main field of interest: the biochemistry of alcoholism. As a full Professor of Biochemistry, he did research as well as graduate teaching in this field.

After his retirement in 1986, Aaron "did not give up" but continued his work as a Visiting Professor. During his retirement period, he was appointed Consultant and Expert Witness for the legal profession in alcohol and drug matters. So even during his third and last period of life, Aaron Feldstein, with his excellent insight into the biochemistry of alcoholism, could help a great deal to improve the lot of many an unfortunate individual.

Many of us lost a good friend; we all lost a great scientist and teacher. We shall remember him with great fondness.

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