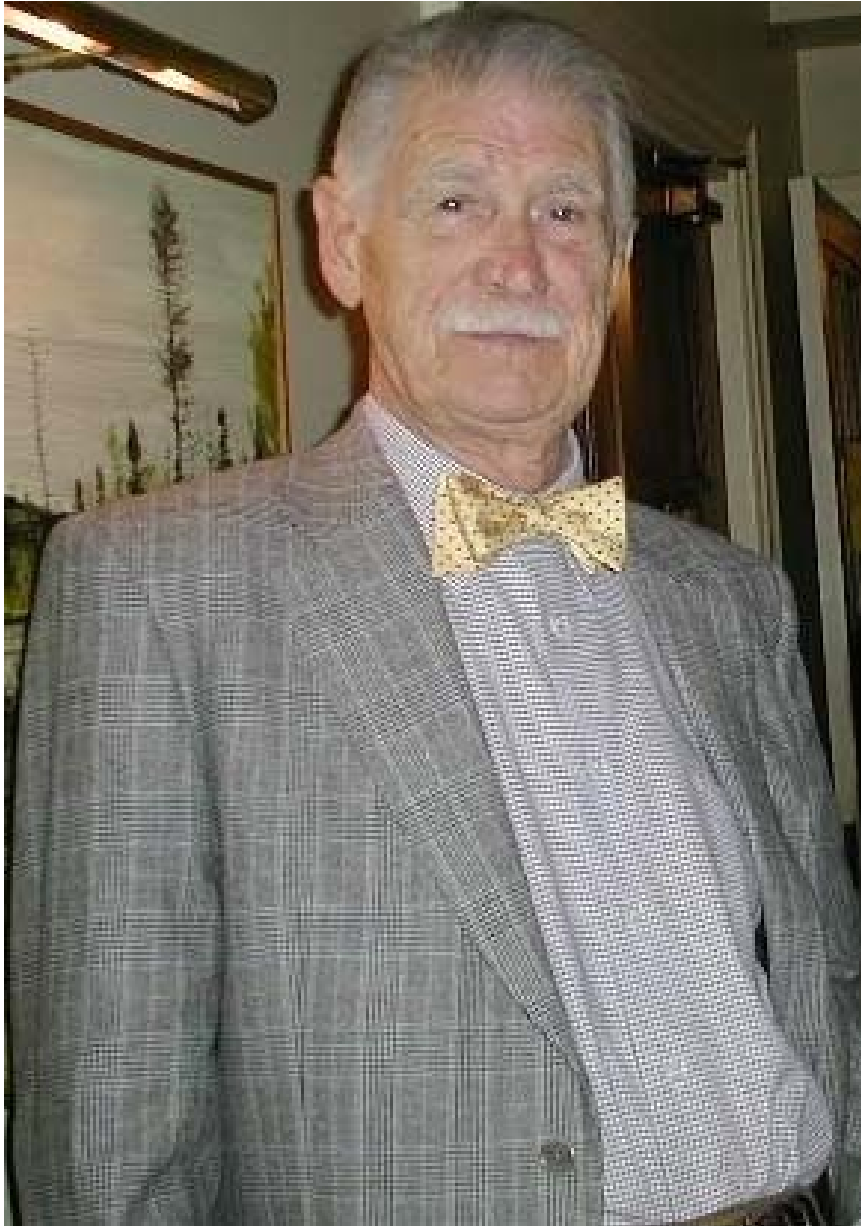


PETER E. BRAUN

**Angus Frederick Graham
1916-2008**



Dr. Angus Frederick Graham, BAsC, MASc (University of Toronto), DSc, PhD (University of Edinburgh), Professor Emeritus, Biochemistry (McGill University) died on 4 August 2008 in Montreal at age 92. He was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 28 March 1916. Angus became interested in organic chemistry while studying chemical engineering at the University of Toronto, subsequently pursuing his interests in this field at the University of Edinburgh. While there, he quickly became interested in viruses, as a potential model to study biosynthesis of macromolecular structures. Returning to Canada in 1947, he joined the University of Toronto and the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories to continue his research in virology, and he remained there until 1958. At the Connaught labs, he was the first to show the incorporation of a radioisotope (^{32}P) into a purified mammalian virus (influenzaA). During these years, he conducted research on the relationship between viruses and host cells, using several phages. Further, he directed numerous studies on the fate of infecting viruses and the synthesis of their nucleic acid components. In this time he trained many budding scientists and post-doctoral fellows, one of whom, Dr. Lou Siminovitch, remembers Angus for his insightfulness and encouragement to embark on new endeavors related to the development of the genetics and biochemistry of mammalian cells in vitro; together they published a dozen papers of considerable significance.

In 1958, Angus accepted an invitation to conduct research at the renowned Wistar Institute, associated with the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. There, he continued to pursue his interests in virology, making important contributions to our understanding of poliovirus, mingo virus, and then latterly, reoviruses. Among these was an important analysis of a plaque assay method for poliovirus. The team he directed on reovirus research became leading authorities in this area.

In 1970, Angus heeded a call to return to Canada, to become the chairman of the Biochemistry Department at McGill University, a position he held until 1980; in 1986 he was awarded the Gilman Cheney Emeritus Professorship of Biochemistry. During this period he continued to train and produce outstanding scientists, some of whom continue to work in Canada. Collectively, this work on reoviruses produced more than 30 important papers in this field. In recognition of Angus' accomplishments and contributions, he was elected in 1978 as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Angus' legacy to Canadian science extends well beyond his scientific accomplishments and the scientists he helped train; notably, he was instrumental in recruiting outstanding individuals to the Biochemistry Department at McGill and building a cohesive ensemble of superb, productive scientists and educators. A hallmark of Angus' leadership was the promotion of collegiality among the faculty and his democratic approach to decision making.

Throughout his life Angus travelled extensively, living and working in many countries including the United States, Venezuela, France and England. He enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid

BRAUN: Angus Frederick Graham

rock climber in his younger days. He especially enjoyed skiing with his boys. He read extensively to the very end and never lost his desire to learn and discuss new subjects and ideas. Angus touched the lives of many through his wisdom, humility and humor, and he is greatly missed.

Angus leaves to mourn his wife Jacqueline, two sons, Robert and Andrew, and their families.

*Written by Peter E. Braun, Phd
Professor and Associate Chair
Department of Biochemistry
McGill University*

(Author's title given as of the time of writing)