



Nathaniel Young  
(1938-1979)

Born in Sheffield, England, Nat Young came to the U.S. at an early age, but retained a keen interest throughout his life in the land of his birth.

Nat studied medicine at Yale where he received the Parker Prize, given to the student with the “best qualifications for the practice of medicine.” He interned in medicine at New York University, followed by a year in clinical pathology at Yale-New Haven Medical Center. He pursued both interests intensively throughout his tragically shortened life.

Dr. Young went to the Middle America Research Unit of NIAID in 1964, where, in just two years, he did classical laboratory work on Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus, studies that remains the unrivaled basis for immunological, epidemiological, and geoecological understanding of the various virus variants that comprise this pathogen swarm. Returning to NIH in 1966, he completed work for board certification in clinical and anatomical pathology, ran the virus diagnostic laboratory at the Clinical Center and was among the first to do molecular studies of enteroviruses.

Next he was off to Harvard; the Channing Laboratories of the Boston City Hospital where he was Fellow in infectious diseases and then Assistant Professor of medicine. In 1974 he returned to the National Cancer Institute where he was head of the Viral Oncology and Molecular Pathology section, the post he held at the time of his untimely death.

Dr. Young was awarded the PHS Commendation Medal for contributions to our knowledge of infectious diseases, he also was an attending clinical physician at both the Clinical Center and the National Naval Medical Center. He taught microbiology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. In addition to research papers, he was beginning to write for medical texts, salient, concise reviews of subjects in which he was most interested.

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