



Terry Barton Strom



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Terry Barton Strom (1941 - 2017), lovingly called the Big T by his family and friends, had an unusual combination of talents. He was a visionary who worked tirelessly to advance the possibilities of transplantation. He was a superb and compassionate clinician, a brilliant basic and translational immunologist, and an outstanding educator and mentor who received numerous national and international awards.

Dr. Strom never received a bachelor's degree or PhD. During his time at the University of Illinois, it was common for undergraduates to begin medical school during their senior year. True to character, the young Terry made the decision to take additional history classes, and so he never actually graduated from college. After he completed a two-year internal medicine residency in Chicago, he joined the Air Force during the Vietnam War. Then he applied for his last year of residency at Beth Israel Hospital. It was then that his career really began to take shape. After his nephrology fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital, he was on the faculty initially at the Brigham and then at Beth Israel Hospital, later Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, for the remainder of his career. Dr. Strom also served as Professor of

Medicine at Harvard Medical School. One of Terry's defining attributes was his curiosity, his genuine interest in seeking answers to all kinds of questions. He had a remarkable talent for conceptualizing complicated issues, and for coming up with testable hypotheses and workable projects. Early in his career, Terry was a leading investigator in the search for surface markers that could separate activated lymphocytes from resting ones, so that they could be selectively targeted. He pioneered the multidimensional assessments of lymphocytes in the rejection of grafts, an approach still applied to ongoing studies. His theories on T cell clone size and transplant outcomes, approaches to tipping the balance of T effector cells and T regulatory cells (5), and inflammation that rules immunity over tolerance—all of his pioneering in these areas still shapes our thinking about how to approach transplant tolerance in the clinic.

As a highly accomplished nephrologist, Terry was very well versed in clinical applications of lab discoveries. He was always at the forefront of translational studies, long before "translational" became trendy. Terry led the early studies of anti-CD25 in transplant survival, which resulted in the clinical

development and subsequent FDA approval of the anti- CD25 monoclonal antibody for kidney transplant patients. Today, Simulect® (the brand name of the Novartis compound) is widely used as a clinical induction reagent.

Terry also had great interest in developing Fc-based fusion proteins as clinical therapeutics. And he devoted tremendous effort to identifying molecular biomarkers to better serve kidney transplant patients, an area of significant importance in the advancement of transplant medicine.

Throughout his career, Terry was very sensitive to new technologies as well, and extremely creative about applying them to research. Even before the time of quantitative RT-PCR, his lab was already achieving quantitative PCR, simply by introducing a target gene-specific competitor during all PCR amplifications. His lab actively bred double or triple knockout mice for transplant studies, long before genetically modified mice became mainstream tools. Terry had great insights into animal models with color-coded T cells and innovatively applied them to the study of transplant tolerance. Only a month before his passing, he was advising colleagues on the use of CyTOF, a mass cytometer that is radically different from flow cytometer, and ways to incorporate the CyTOF into studies.

Terry was a beloved mentor and a great educator. As a prolific investigator in the field, he drew fellows from all over the world to his lab—it was truly like a miniaturized United Nations. He allowed fellows the freedom to exercise their own talent, while providing guidance and support along the way. He often said that in scientific research, “you have to respect the data, not the paradigms, because people lie but data never lie.” This gave fellows great confidence in their own intellectual pursuits. Countless current practitioners benefited tremendously from his approach. Terry was an inspiring speaker and a motivating communicator. The breadth and depth of his knowledge was always impressive, and whatever the topic was and wherever the conversation was heading, Terry always made talks fun and enjoyable, and left the audience with a profound sense of enlightenment.

Terry was an enthusiast and an eternal optimist, too, oftentimes providing encouragement when you needed it the most. When mentees were bogged down by rejections of papers and grants, he would reassure them, “You have to look at the big picture. Justice is done over a career, not a paper or a grant.” Importantly, he was genuinely kind and generous toward his fellows in terms of his support, time, and advice, even long after they had left his lab. The trainees he mentored are carrying on his legacy, at the forefront of transplant science as well as patient care around the world.

His contributions to the field were recognized with numerous accolades, including the AST’s mentoring and distinguished achievement awards, the Starzl Prize in Transplantation, the Alfred Newton Richards lifetime achievement award from the International Society of Nephrology, and the Homer W. Smith award from the American Society of Nephrology. He also left his marks on many professional societies and had been a founding member of the American Society of Transplant Physicians (ASTP), the predecessor of American Society of Transplantation (AST), and served as the Society’s first past president.

Terry’s prodigious written output included over 700 papers in all major scientific journals, in addition to more than 50 patents. He was one of the most productive transplant immunologists of our generation.

Terry passed away on December 20, 2017 from complications of a bone marrow transplant at the age of 76. Terry is survived by his wife, Margot Stern Strom, and their children: he was the devoted father of

Adam Strom (Sandy Smith-Garcés) and Rachel Fan Stern Strom (Rinze van Brug). He cherished being the grandfather of Max, Sam, Ries, and Liev. He is also survived by his brother Michael Strom (Sherry) and sister Susan Mogerman (Jay).

Terry's beliefs, achievements, and collegiality, the extraordinary impact he had on the field, will live on. He set a high bar for himself and others, and his example will continue to inspire.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Pavlakis, MD, *Chairperson*

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