July 24, 2013

Dear Faculty, Students and Staff,

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Yacov Ron, PhD, professor of pharmacology. An expert in cellular mechanisms of autoimmunity and gene transfer approaches for treatment of autoimmune diseases, Dr. Ron's reputation was established early in his career by demonstrating B-cells as major antigen presenting cells for T-cell priming, a novel concept that went against the then-prevailing immunology ideology. Most recently, he studied T-cell tolerance in an effort to understand the mechanism of autoimmune neuropathies such as multiple sclerosis, and to use gene therapy to treat such illnesses.

An alumnus of Tel Aviv University, Israel, where he earned a bachelor of science, Dr. Ron earned a doctorate in cell biology from The Weizmann Institute of Science, also in Israel. He completed fellowships at Yale University and The Scripps Research Institute, where he served as a research associate. Dr. Ron joined Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in 1988 and served as a member of the graduate program in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at Rutgers throughout his tenure.

Dr. Ron was highly regarded by his colleagues and students for his collegiality, deep understanding of immunology, scientific rigor and energy. A former student and close collaborator of Dr. Ron's said, "Dr. Ron's students would describe him as an ideal mentor, helping students and young scientists without reservation. He was a great storyteller, as well as being a great listener. Dr. Ron inspired many to love science like he did."

Yacov will be greatly missed.

Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD
Dean
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School