

# Preface

## In Memoriam of Alfred S. Evans

The third edition of *Bacterial Infections of Humans* is dedicated to Alfred Spring Evans, who died on January 21, 1996, 2 ½ years after a diagnosis of cancer. Al was the senior editor of this textbook, which he founded with Harry Feldman in 1982.

Al was a clinician, epidemiologist, educator, catalyst for biomedical research, historian, author, speaker, seeker of the truth, sincere friend of students, sports enthusiast, traveler, and truly a man of all seasons. He was a devoted husband to Brigitte Klug Evans, father of three children, and grandfather of four.

Al was born in Buffalo, New York, on August 21, 1917, to Ellen Spring and John H. Evans, M.D., one of the United States's first anesthesiologists and an early researcher in the field of oxygen therapy. He received his undergraduate training at the University of Michigan; was awarded an M.D. degree in 1943 from the University of Buffalo; interned in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and performed his medical residency at the Goldwater Hospital in New York City. He was in the United States Army from 1944 to 1946, assigned as a public health officer to a base in Okinawa, Japan. It was there that he met Drs. Albert Sabin and John R. Paul, who came to Okinawa to test a new Japanese encephalitis vaccine. Al was invited by Dr. Paul to come to Yale University to work on the identification of the cause of infectious mononucleosis. He accepted this invitation and became an associate professor of medicine in the Department of Medicine from 1946 to 1950. He was then called back to active duty in the Army and acted

as chief of the Hepatitis Research Laboratory in Munich, Germany. It was there that he met his future wife.

In 1952, he joined the University of Wisconsin Medical School faculty and was professor and chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine. In 1959 he also became director of the state Laboratory of Hygiene. He took a sabbatical leave in 1960 to study for his M.P.H. degree, which he received from the University of Michigan in 1961. In 1966 he accepted the position of John Rodman Paul Professor of Epidemiology at Yale University. Additionally, he became the director of the WHO's Serum Reference Bank at Yale. He remained active as a teacher and researcher until 1988 when he became an emeritus professor. He retired from Yale in 1994.



Alfred S. Evans  
1917–1996

Al was dedicated to teaching both undergraduate and graduate students, and his expertise included a full range of topics in preventive medicine, public health, epidemiology (both applied and clinical), infectious diseases, and other related subjects. He was one of the founders and the first director of the Graduate Summer Session in Epidemiology, which was first held in the summer of 1965 at the University of Wisconsin. He remained on its faculty when it was held at the University of Minnesota from 1967 to 1987, and then at the University of Michigan School of Public Health from 1988 through the summer of 1994. During his 29 years of association with the Graduate Summer Session, he was not only a lecturer, primarily in epidemiology and infectious diseases, but was also an active participant on the Planning Committee and was the unofficial social chairman for the 3-week session.

Al was a popular lecturer who used expected and unexpected visual aids and injected humor throughout his lectures. He enjoyed teaching, and his students were eager recipients, greatly stimulated by his teaching, who frequently acknowledged his excellence with words, deeds, and appropriate awards, such as the Bedpan Award for Clinical Teaching given at the University of Wisconsin in 1952. As a teacher he constantly looked for new methods of presenting information to students. He was dedicated to the method of problem-oriented sessions and developed his own infectious disease case studies, which he would incorporate into his lectures. Additionally, he was a popular guest lecturer at universities and institutions in the United States and throughout the world. He was never too busy for his students and provided ongoing consultation concerning their training and careers.

His research ranged over broad fields of infectious disease as well as public health and epidemiology, with an emphasis on the Epstein–Barr virus and the relationships between cancer and infectious agents. He was the author or coauthor of more than 230 scientific, peer-viewed publications covering a broad area of topics, including such titles as “Sneezes, Wheezes, and Other Diseases” (1961), “Farm Injuries” (1958 and 1961), and “The Instant-Distant Infection” (1966). He was a medical historian, writing essays on John Evans, Austin Flint, and Max von Pettenkofer. He constantly promoted the incorporation of presentations on medical or public health history in the programs of various societies and training programs. He was an active supporter of Yale’s historic Beaumont Medical Club.

Al firmly believed in the importance of accuracy in investigations, whether in the laboratory or in the field. His initial involvement in a field investigation incorporated comprehensive descriptive epidemiology that, when appropriate, was followed by methodical and carefully conceived analytic epidemiological methods. He was innovative in the use of observational field studies, which is reflected in his studies of the Epstein–Barr virus. Al constantly promoted the development and use of serum banks, as reflected by the WHO Serum Reference Bank at Yale. There are numerous examples of how this facility made significant contributions to Al’s studies of infectious mononucleosis, other infectious diseases, and, more recently, HIV/AIDS. He made significant contributions to the concepts of disease causation and researched and reworked Koch’s postulates. In this regard, he acknowledged the important contributions that Jakob Henle made to the topic and renamed Koch’s postulates the Henle–Koch postulates.

He was author or coauthor of five well-received textbooks: *Viral Infections of Humans* (which in 1977 received The American Medical Writers’ Association award for the best book written for physicians), *Bacterial Infections of Humans*, *Methods in Observational Epidemiology*, *Causation and Disease: A Chronological Journey*, and *Symposium on Latency and Masking in Viral and Rickettsial Infections*. He was also an editor of the *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*. He was a consultant to the WHO, the Pan American Health Organization, the United States Public Health Service, and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency and worked specifically with the space program in establishing the infection quarantine programs for the Apollo 13 space mission. He frequently consulted with numerous Ministries of Health in other countries, including Czechoslovakia, Kuwait, France, Spain, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Al remained current with the medical literature, applied new technology in his own research, and brought appropriate new information into his lectures and writings. He constantly acquainted his colleagues and students with pertinent new written information culled from the current medical literature.

He belonged to and was an avid supporter of a number of societies, including the American Epidemiological Society, for which he served as secretary-treasurer (1968–1972) and president (1973); The American College of Epidemiology, of which he was one of the cofounders and later served as president

(1990); The Society of Epidemiologic Research; The Infectious Disease Society of America; The Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces, for which he served as president (1983); and the American Public Health Association (where he was president of the Epidemiology Section). He was also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Al received numerous prestigious awards and lectureships, including the Thomas Parron Lecturer and Award, University of Pittsburgh (1977); the Thomas Francis Lectureship, University of Michigan School of Public Health (1986); the Abraham Lilienfeld Lectureship, American College of Epidemiology (1986); the First Harry Feldman Memorial Lectureship, American Epidemiological Society (1987); the John R. Seal Award, The Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces (1987); the W.B. Harrington Lecture and Award, University of Buffalo (1988); the Abraham Lilienfeld Award, Epidemiology Section, American Public Health Association (1990); and the Kass Lecturer, The Infectious Disease Society of America (1995). He was a renowned poet, but never published any of his works. He enjoyed reciting them in the classroom, in private discussions, and at social events.

During his life, he set standards to which others will aspire. The world is richer for the activities of Alfred Spring Evans, and we will all be better scientists and humanitarians because of his contributions.

The contents of this book were written by experts in the specific topics of each chapter, many of whom Al knew personally. The quality of the chapters reflects the multiple contributions that Alfred Spring Evans made to each of our professional lives.