



Donald H. Voet, 1938-2023.

Sadly, our esteemed friend and colleague, Prof. Donald H. Voet, passed away on 11th April 2023. Don did his undergraduate studies in chemistry at the California Institute of Technology in 1960 and earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1967 with the Nobel Prize-winning chemist William N. Lipscomb, Jr.

In 1969, Don completed his postdoctoral research in the field of biophysics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and later became a professor in the Chemistry Department at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, where he applied X-ray crystallography in an effort to understand structure-function relationships in proteins such as yeast inorganic pyrophosphatase and granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor.

Don was recognized as a notable biochemist, an educator, a writer and received prestigious awards from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) in recognition of his exemplary contributions to science and education in biochemistry. Over the years he was a visiting scholar at Oxford University, the University of California San Diego and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. He appeared at seminars and education conferences worldwide and served on education committees for numerous organizations. He was also Co-Editor-in-Chief (2000-2014) of "Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education", an educational journal published by the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB).

In recent years Don has suffered from health problems, but continued his academic activities as Emeritus Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and always offered his time to the scientific community by continuing to travel with Judy, his wife and professional partner for "58 wonderful years spent doing what they loved: helping students develop the tools they need to further their careers in the biomedical sciences and fostering a biochemistry community dedicated to student learning", as Judy Voet said on behalf of herself and her husband.

In our SIB Community, Don was perhaps best known for the Voet & Voet Biochemistry seminal textbook, a staple of campus bookstores and classrooms for more than 30 years, now in its 4th edition, of which he was co-author with Judy.

Their last conference attendance in Italy was at the FEBS Education Meeting on Excellence in Learning and Teaching Biochemistry in Rome, in 2019. On that occasion, Don and Judy also visited the University of Bologna to have a dialogue with STEM students and to encourage the young scientists of the future with their personal example of lifelong motivation and proactive aptitude for success in the world of biochemistry.

As the Educational Group of SIB, we share in Judy's grief over the loss of this great master of world biochemistry. He will be deeply missed and we will strive to honor his memory by carrying on his educational mission for the younger generations.