Editor’s Note: AJP-Cell and AJP-Renal article series to honor the work of Dale Benos

The American Journal of Physiology-Cell Physiology and the American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology will be publishing a series of review articles highlighting areas of research that were a focus of Dale Benos, who passed away in the fall of 2010. The first article in this series appears in the October 2011 issue of the American Journal of Physiology-Renal Physiology. This review addresses epithelial Na channel (ENaC) structure and function and how this field has evolved over the past four years following the publication of the structure of a homologous acid-sensing ion channel (ASIC). Future reviews, written by Dale’s former trainees, collaborators, and colleagues, will focus on the structure and regulation of ASICs, the role of the cytoskeleton on modulating epithelial ion transporters, and the potential role of ASIC/ENaC inhibitors as therapeutic agents.

Dale had a remarkable scientific career that spanned three decades. In addition to his elegant studies on members of ENaC/ASIC family of ion channels, Dale served as Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Physiology-Cell Physiology, Chair of the Publications Committee of the American Physiological Society (APS), and as its President from 2006–2007. Dale’s passion for physiology was evident in his lectures, his published work, and in his personal interactions. He was passionate about teaching and the students he interacted with as exemplified by the recognition he received in 2006 when he was presented with the University of Alabama at Birmingham President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. His commitment to service to the University, to the APS, and to the community was the reason the Society has named its Early Career Professional Service Award in his honor. He was a wonderful teacher, advisor, mentor and a colleague. We will miss him.

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