Robert N. Goodman, 1921 to 1999

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Robert N. Goodman, a long-time plant pathologist at the University of Missouri and a leader in the field of plant disease physiology, passed away on 18 June 1999, in Columbia, MO. Bob was born on 15 December 1921 in Yonkers, NY, and he served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of New Hampshire, Durham, in 1948 and 1952, respectively.

Bob came to the University of Missouri, Columbia, in 1950 as a doctoral student in the Department of Horticulture. He received his Ph.D. degree 2 years later and immediately accepted a position as assistant professor of horticulture. Dr. Goodman was promoted to the rank of professor in 1961. When the Department of Plant Pathology was created in 1967, he was among its first faculty members.

The unexpected death of Dr. T. W. Bretz, the first chair of the new department, thrust Dr. Goodman into a leadership role within just months of the department's formation. He accepted the challenge at this very critical juncture and was the steady hand that molded and nurtured the department through its formative years. Dr. Goodman had a knack for administration and was persuaded to remain as chair until 1979. These were years of building and maturation, and even today, his imprint can be seen in the character of the department.

Dr. Goodman maintained an active research program during his years as department chair and focused his undivided attention on research from 1979 until his retirement in 1991. His initial assignment in horticulture had been to control fire blight, and he was one of the first to show that streptomycin sprays are effective. Dr. Goodman realized from the beginning that effective control measures are based on a thorough understanding of the interaction between pathogen and host. Focusing first on fire blight and later on crown gall of grapes, he and his associates detailed the structural aspects of host responses to infection and sorted out the roles of toxins and polysaccharides in bacterial diseases. Even after he had developed an international reputation as a plant disease physiologist, Dr. Goodman never lost track of disease control as the ultimate goal of plant pathological research.

The child of immigrants from Europe, Dr. Goodman always had a global perspective. His first leave in the early 1950s took him to the laboratory of Ernst Gäumann in Zurich, Switzerland. He also did research in laboratories in England, Hungary, and other European countries. The department was enriched for decades by literally dozens of visiting scientists who came to study in the Goodman laboratory. One of the first was Zoltán Klement, the father of the bacterial hypersensitive reaction. Together with Z. Klement, Dr. Goodman published the first review article on this phenomenon in the 1967 *Annual Review of Phytopathology*.

A critical thinker with a talent for synthesizing scientific literature, Dr. Goodman published more than 100 scientific papers during his career. He authored chapters in various compendia, including *The Encyclopedia of Plant Physiology* and Callow's *Biochemical Plant Pathology*. His name also is associated with three books that are well known to all plant disease physiologists and biochemists. With Zoltán Király and Milton Zaitlin, he published *The Biochemistry and Physiology of Infectious Plant Disease* in 1967. This seminal textbook was revised and updated with Zoltán Király and K. R. Wood in 1986 as *The Biochemistry and Physiology of Plant Disease*. His last scientific volume, *The Hypersensitive Response in Plants to Pathogens: A Resistance Phenomenon*, was written with A. J. Novacky and published by APS Press in 1994.

Following his retirement, Bob devoted increasing attention to his wife Phoebe and their three daughters: Janet Cohen of New York City; Rachel Goodman of Brookline, MA; and Joyce McMurtrey of Mountain Grove, MO. Bob was active in the family vineyard in southern Missouri and worked tirelessly to import crown gall-resistant grape varieties into this country, mainly from the Czech Republic and Ukraine. Bob supported the research programs of the Fruit Tree Experiment Station at Southwest Missouri State University, Mountain Grove, and sought to advance the wine and grape industry in the state. He also found time to complete the manuscript for a novel based on his family roots and the grape-growing tradition in Hungary.

Although Bob spent his entire 39-year professional career at the University of Missouri, his influence on plant pathology has been felt around the world. He was a passionate supporter of the profession, and as both of us can personally attest, he made it his business to nurture and guide the careers of younger plant pathologists.