Dear DMG members,

Dr. David Mahler, a pioneer in dental materials research and faculty member at Oregon Health and Science University from 1956-2014 passed away Wednesday, August 2, at the age of 94. Dave was an outstanding scientist, mentor and teacher. He was the epitome of a gentleman and a scholar.

There will not be a memorial service, according to David's wishes. This link goes to the transcript of an interview with Dr. Mahler in 2009: http://digitalcommons.ohsu.edu/hca-oralhist/96/

Below is an amusing quote of his from that interview:

"You know the university gives an award, for every five years of service. The award consists of a small lapel pin containing a precious stone which is repeated after each successive 5 years of service. When I was here at OHSU for fifty years, they were wondering whether there was something more substantial that they could give to me. One suggestion was a nice leather chair, to go at my desk. After thinking about this a little bit, I thought "Well, when I'm gone, my sons will probably put it up in a garage sale"; and that didn't impress me as being something that was of great note.

Dr. Ferracane, who is presently chairman of the department, came up with the idea of naming the laboratory in which I work with a suitable plaque mounted at the entrance. This was very acceptably received by me and reminds me that someone is watching over me. It also serves as a reminder to foreign students who take programs in the department. Students in other countries know of me through the courses in dental materials they took when they were dental students in other countries. One student noticed my name was on the door of one of the
up there. When she peeked in my partially opened doorway and saw me sitting at my desk, she exclaimed "my god, he's still alive" [laughter]. I thought that was a pretty neat little situation."

We will miss him, but he had a great run. Cheers to you Dave, and thanks for everything.

Jack Ferracane

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