ASPB Pioneer Member

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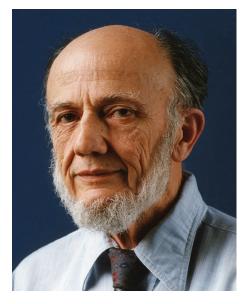
André Jagendorf

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André Tridon Jagendorf, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor Emeritus in the Plant Biology Section of the School of Integrative Plant Science, died March 13 in Ithaca, New York. He was 90.

André is best known for his research that provided direct evidence that chloroplasts synthesize adenosine triphosphate (ATP) through the movement of hydrogen ions across membranes. (ATP is the molecule that supplies the energy to fuel metabolism on the cellular level.) He was also a pioneer in many aspects of chloroplast molecular biology, including DNA repair mechanisms.

"By advancing our fundamental understanding of the inner workings of chloroplasts—the basic structures that plants use to convert sunlight into food, fuel, and fiber—André provided us with deep insights into fundamental life processes," said Karl Niklas, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Botany.



André attended the Bronx High School of Science before matriculating at Cornell, where he earned a bachelor's degree in plant physiology in 1948. He completed his doctorate in biophysics at Yale University in 1951 and was a Merck Fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles, before joining the faculty at Johns Hopkins University in 1953. He returned to Cornell as professor of plant physiology in 1966 and was named Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor in 1981. He continued daily laboratory work until just a few weeks before his death.

André was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1980. Among other honors, he received the Charles F. Kettering Award and Charles Reid Barnes Life Membership Award from the American Society of Plant Physiologists, in addition to serving as the organization's president. In 2007 he was named one of the first fellows of the American Society of Plant Biologists, and in 2012 he received the Rebeiz Foundation for Basic Research Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the understanding of ATP biosynthesis. He also served as chair of the Section of Plant Biology in the former Division of Biological Sciences from 1990 to 1992.

Over the course of his career, André collaborated with scores of other researchers and mentored many young scientists. In his retrospective paper "Chance, Luck and Photosynthesis Research: An Inside Story," published in Photosynthesis Research in 1998 (Vol. 57, pp. 215-229), André acknowledged "the major contributions of graduate students and postdocs, and help from friends and colleagues. Without them I would have had no career at all." He is survived by his wife, Jean; two daughters; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Craig Cramer