



City of Cambridge

R-21.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 6, 2000

COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Dr. Eva J. Neer on February 20, 2000; and

WHEREAS: Eva was born in Warsaw in 1937 and emigrated to the United States with her parents in 1945; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer was a graduate of Radcliffe College, Barnard College and Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons and received her post-graduate training at Georgetown University Hospital, Yale and Harvard; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer spent most of her career at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the cardiovascular unit; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer was instrumental in changing the way scientists think about how cells interpret the signals they receive from hormones, neurotransmitters, light and odorant molecules; and

WHEREAS: In 1980 Dr. Neer and a colleague discovered a second fragment to the G protein called beta-gamma and this discovery lead to Dr. Neer's election into the National Academy of Sciences; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences; and received the 1996 American Heart Association prize; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer was a researcher, mentor, teacher and advocate for the scientific environment; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer's passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving family, her husband, Dr. Robert Neer; her sons Robert, Jr. and Richard Neer; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved including her students; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Eva J. Neer at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Neer family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council March 6, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

B-21 ✓
Councillor Barn
Councillor Davis 2/29/00 @ 12:50
all

Whereas Dr. Neer WAS A member
OF THE American Academy OF Arts & Sciences,
THE Polish Institute OF Arts & Sciences, AND
RECEIVED THE 1996 American Heart Association
prize; AND
WHEREAS: DR. Neer WAS A researcher, mentor,
teacher, AND Advocate FOR the
scientific environment;

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of

DR. EVA J. Neer on Feb. 20, 2000; and

EVA WAS BORN IN WARSAW IN 1937 AND EMIGRATED TO THE US

WHEREAS: with her parents in 1945; and

Whereas Dr. Neer was a graduate of Radcliffe College, Barnard College &
Columbia University's College OF Physicians AND Surgeons AND received
her postgraduate training at Georgetown University Hospital, Yale
AND Harvard;

; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer spent ~~her~~ ^{most of her} career at Brigham & Women's
Hospital in the Cardiovascular Unit; and

Whereas Dr. Neer was instrumental in changing the way scientists think about
how cells interpret the signals they receive from hormones,
neurotransmitters, light & odorant molecules; and

WHEREAS: in 1980 Dr. Neer & a colleague discovered a second fragment to
the C-protein, called Beta-gamma, & this discovery lead to Dr. Neer's
election to the National Academy of Sciences; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer passing will leave a void in the lives of all his/her surviving

family, her husband, Dr. Robert Neer; her

sons Robert, Jr. and Richard Neer

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer will be sorely missed by all he/she touched and loved; now
therefore be it including
her students

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family
of Dr. Eva J. Neer at this time of such personal loss; and
be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitable engrossed
copy of this resolution to the Neer family on behalf of the
entire City Council.

Obituaries

OTHER OBITUARIES | B8

Dr. Eva J. Neer, noted biochemist, mentor to young scientists; at 62

By Richard A. Knox
GLOBE STAFF

A memorial service is planned for 3 p.m. on March 4, in Memorial Church in Harvard Yard, for biochemist Dr. Eva J. Neer.

Dr. Neer, a Harvard University heart researcher, died Sunday from complications of breast cancer. She was 62.

Dr. Neer changed the way scientists think about a fundamental biological phenomenon — how cells interpret the signals they receive from hormones, neurotransmitters, light, and odorant molecules.

Colleagues at Harvard described Dr. Neer as a model of scientific focus who also acted as a mentor and advocate for undergraduates, doctoral students, and young scientists — especially young women.

"She broke the glass ceiling for advancement in science faculties," said Dr. Daniel C. Tosteson, the former dean of Harvard Medical School. "She was an extraordinarily intelligent, capable woman, and a great citizen of the Harvard Medical School."

The school lowered its flag to half-staff in her honor this week.

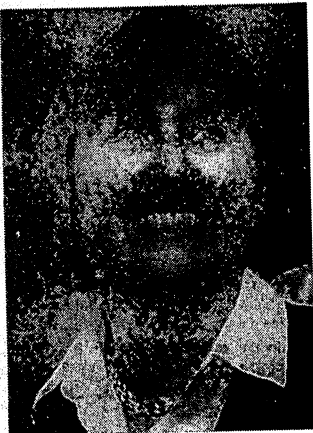
Those who knew her also spoke of Dr. Neer's decision to keep her 11-year struggle with cancer largely private, partly to protect the young scientists in her laboratory against the loss of grant funding. She feared that outcome if she were perceived to be suffering from a terminal disease.

Dr. Neer last went to her lab in the Brigham and Women's Thorne Building four days before her death. Last Friday morning, she telephoned her apologies for missing a lab meeting and told a colleague she hoped to see him Monday. She fell into a coma Saturday and died at home Sunday.

"There were people in her lab who didn't know she was ill," said Dr. Thomas Michel, cardiologist in chief at the Veterans Administration Boston Health Care System. "Until the last couple of days, she sustained herself with tremendous grace and energy and courage."

Dr. Neer, who was working on a half-dozen scientific papers at the time of her death, also told one friend that she couldn't bear colleagues' reaction to her cancer diagnosis and didn't want to be defined by her illness. "I can't stand to see the tears in people's eyes," she confided to a friend recently.

As a scientist, Dr. Neer overcame vehement criticism through quiet persistence and the rigor of her work. "People on the other side of the debate didn't have 10 percent of the class Eva did," said Dr. Alfred Gilman of the University of



EVA J. NEER.

Texas Southwestern Medical School. "They were cocky and quite confident, but they were wrong."

The controversy concerned Dr. Neer's major field of interest, the so-called G protein, a crucial molecule found in every cell in virtually all living organisms. "The G protein mediates everything from sex in yeast to cognition in humans," said Gilman, who shared a 1994 Nobel Prize for its discovery.

For years, researchers believed that only one fragment of the G protein carried out its signaling work. But Dr. Neer and a colleague, David Clapham, discovered in the late 1980s that a second fragment, called beta-gamma, also passed on signals from hormones and neurotransmitters outside the cell.

This "anti-dogmatic" discovery caused fierce dispute, Gilman said, but eventually it changed the paradigm for understanding G proteins. The finding was instrumental in Dr. Neer's election two years ago to the National Academy of Sciences — only the second Brigham and Women's heart researcher, after Dr. Eugene Braunwald, to attain that honor.

Eva Neer was born Eva Augenblick in Warsaw in 1937, the only child of a lawyer father and a mother who was an expert on François Rabelais, the French satirist and humorist. When she was only a year old, her parents fled to Brazil. They immigrated to the United States in 1945.

Dr. Neer was an alumna of Radcliffe College, Barnard College, and Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. After post-graduate training at Georgetown University Hospital, Yale University, and Harvard, she spent most of her career in the cardiovascular unit at Brigham and Women's.

She won election to the National Institute of Medicine and was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America. Among other honors, Dr. Neer won the American Heart Association's basic research prize in 1996.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Robert Neer, an endocrinologist at Massachusetts General Hospital; and two sons, Robert Jr. and Richard, both of Cambridge.

2000 FEB 25 PM 4:08

RECEIVED
FEB 25 2000
FBI BOSTON

C. Born

Death Res on
Dr. Eva J. Meer
today's paper

me

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer's passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving family, her husband, Dr. Robert Neer; her sons Robert, Jr. and Richard Neer; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved including her students; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Eva J. Neer at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Neer family on behalf of the entire City Council.



City of Cambridge

R-21.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 6, 2000

COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Dr. Eva J. Neer on February 20, 2000; and

WHEREAS: Eva was born in Warsaw in 1937 and emigrated to the United States with her parents in 1945; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer was a graduate of Radcliffe College, Barnard College and Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons and received her post-graduate training at Georgetown University Hospital, Yale and Harvard; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer spent most of her career at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the cardiovascular unit; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer was instrumental in changing the way scientists think about how cells interpret the signals they receive from hormones, neurotransmitters, light and odorant molecules; and

WHEREAS: In 1980 Dr. Neer and a colleague discovered a second fragment to the G protein called beta-gamma and this discovery led to Dr. Neer's election into the National Academy of Sciences; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences; and received the 1996 American Heart Association prize; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Neer was a researcher, mentor, teacher and advocate for the scientific environment; and

152R

Resolution #21

Resolution on the death of
Dr. Eva J. Neer.

**Councillors Born, Davis and
entire membership**

In City Council March 6, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED