

# New England Opera Club



*New England Opera Club Newsletter*

*Logo by Barbara Winston*

**Date: August, 2020**

**No meeting!**

## **In Memoriam: Noel R. Rose, 1927-2020**

*Late NEOC board member*

Noel R. Rose, MD, PhD, a longtime Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health faculty member and researcher recognized as a father of autoimmune disease research, died Thursday. Rose, 92, died at home in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis affect more than 20 million Americans, and encompass more than 100 chronic conditions.

“Noel was an extraordinary scientist and an exceptionally kind and humble human being— always looking out for the well-being of faculty and students,” said Ellen J. MacKenzie, PhD '79, ScM '75, the current dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. “I admired his steadfast commitment to excellence coupled with his dry sense of humor. He was always good at listening to different sides of an argument and reaching a decision that everyone felt good about.”

Dr. Rose joined Johns Hopkins in 1982 as chair of what is now the W. Harry Feinstone Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at the Bloomberg School.

In 1956, at the University of Buffalo School of Medicine, Dr. Rose and his mentor Ernest Witebsky, MD, discovered that Hashimoto's disease—chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis, or hypothyroidism—could be reproduced in experimental animals by immunization with thyroglobulin, which revealed that animals produced an immune response that inflamed and destroyed their own thyroid glands. This landmark discovery of autoimmunity led to the creation of a whole new class of disease and opened the door for research for treatments and cures.

Prior to joining Johns Hopkins, Dr. Rose served from 1951 to 1973 on the faculty of SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine, where he made his next major discovery: the genetic basis of autoimmune disease. His lab showed for the first time that the major histocompatibility complex contains the main genes that determine the risk for all autoimmune disease. From 1973 to 1982, he was professor and chair of the Department of Immunology and Microbiology at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

“As his successor as department chair, I benefitted greatly from Noel's perspective and advice. In his own quiet and considerate way, he contributed to science and the School of Public Health in multiple ways,” recalled Diane Griffin, MD, PhD, University Distinguished Service Professor at the Bloomberg School who served as chair of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology from 1994 through 2014. “He was a founding contributor to the field of autoimmunity and continued to make pioneering contributions to our understanding of these diseases.”

From 1982 until 1993, Dr. Rose was professor and chair of what was then the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the School while he simultaneously held a full-time appointment in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine's Department of Pathology, where he directed the Pathobiology Graduate Program.

## New England Opera Club Newsletter

### **Board**

Deborah Rose  
617-383-5045

Andrew Altenbach

Maria-Pia Antonelli  
617-527-1372

Angelo Mammano  
781-777-2178  
[operangelo@comcast.net](mailto:operangelo@comcast.net)

Erika Reitshamer  
508-485-1214  
[erika@reitshamer.com](mailto:erika@reitshamer.com)

**Treasurer**  
Mima Leivi  
617-983-0310  
[mleivi@msn.com](mailto:mleivi@msn.com)

**Webmaster and  
Newsletter Assistant**  
Marion Leeds Carroll  
[marion.l.carroll@gmail.com](mailto:marion.l.carroll@gmail.com)

**To contact NEOC:**  
[operainfo@neoperclub.org](mailto:operainfo@neoperclub.org)

**Letters or Articles to the  
Editor:**

NEOC  
Mima Leivi  
80 Paul Gore St., #1  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

### **Annual Membership:**

\$40 for each individual  
/ \$45 for a couple at  
same address  
\$15 student with valid  
ID

Mail check, payable to  
NEOC, to

Mima Leivi, Treasurer  
(see address above)

*The mission of this  
nonprofit association is  
educational:  
To promote appreciation of  
the art of opera; to support  
performances of quality  
opera in New England; to  
encourage talented  
students in their pursuit of  
operatic careers.*

After stepping down as chair in 1993, Rose directed the Department of Pathology Division of Immunology for five years and served as president of the Bloomberg School Faculty Senate. He also directed the Johns Hopkins Center for Autoimmune Disease Research, which he founded in 1999.

In 1991, Dr. Rose and Virginia T. Ladd founded the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association, the primary research and advocacy group for autoimmune diseases, which has worked closely with Dr. Rose and the Johns Hopkins University Autoimmune Disease Research Clinic. For 20 years, Dr. Rose chaired the organization's scientific committee and spearheaded the biannual Noel R. Rose Scientific Colloquium, which convenes the nation's leading researchers in autoimmune and related diseases.

His prominent national and global leadership roles included director of the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Autoimmune Disorders and chair of the Autoimmune Diseases Coordinating Committee at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Rose was editor or co-editor of 23 books, most notably the textbook *The Autoimmune Diseases*, and published more than 880 articles and chapters in the fields of immunology, immunopathology, autoimmunity, and autoimmune diseases.

Dr. Rose was born in Stamford, Connecticut, on December 3, 1927. His mother was a teacher and his father a physician. He received his BS in zoology in 1948 from Yale University, a PhD in medical microbiology from University of Pennsylvania in 1951, and his MD in 1964 from the State University of New York, Buffalo.

His numerous accolades include the Abbot Award, Professional Recognition Award, and Founder's Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Microbiology; Ernest Lyman Stebbins Medal from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Bloomberg School's most prestigious award; Nikolaus Copernicus Medal from the Polish Academy of Sciences; Presidential Award from the Clinical Immunology Society, and Golden Goose Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Rose inspired public health students and scientists worldwide and embodies the spirit of science as the engine of progress in public health and medicine. His leadership at Johns Hopkins and at the NIH, WHO, AAAS, and a variety of other national and international agencies has created a legacy of scientific excellence and commitment to fighting disease that will benefit the world for generations to come.

Dr. Rose is survived by his wife of 69 years, Deborah H. Rose of Brookline, MA; four children, Alison Rose Weinstock of Weston, MA; David Richard Rose of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; Bethany Rose Kramer of Framingham, MA, Jonathan Richard Rose of Romeo, MI; and 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

*Johns Hopkins news release, August 3, 202*

### **Past Presidents**

Peter McNamara  
William Miranda  
*NEOC (Founder &  
President Emeritus)*

Jack Fiddler  
Maria Iantosca  
Charlotte Wolfe  
John M. Tischio

To subscribe to our  
newsletter or to join  
our mailing list,  
please send your  
name and email  
address to  
[neoperclub@gmail.com](mailto:neoperclub@gmail.com)

### **Jacopo Peri Award**

*The NEOC frequently  
honors a person who  
has made a significant  
contribution to the  
local opera scene.*

Eunice Alberts  
John Balme  
Scott Brumit  
Sarah Caldwell  
Schuyler Chapin  
Carole Charnow  
Richard Conrad  
Federico Cortese  
Patricia Craig and Richard  
Cassilly  
Phyllis Curtin  
Jan Curtis  
Sharon Daniels  
Janice Mancini Del Sesto  
Ron Della Chiesa  
D'Anna Fortunato  
Randolph J. Fuller  
Boris Goldovsky  
Donald Gramm  
Roland Hayes  
Robert Honeysucker  
Norman Kelley  
Stephen Lord  
William Miranda  
John Moriarty  
Esther Nelson  
Martin Pearlman  
Bradley Pennington  
Jeffrey Rink  
Eleanor Steber  
Susan Stone  
John M. Tischio  
Ernest Triplett

~~~~~  
For up-to-date NEOC activities, visit FaceBook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/NEOperaevents/>

Join NEOC! Visit <https://neoperclub.org/membership.html#form2>