

# Daphne A. Roe

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Daphne Anderson Roe was Professor Emeritus of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University. A native of London, England, Professor Roe received her undergraduate training at the University of London, and was awarded a Doctoral degree in Medicine from that institution in 1950. She joined the Cornell faculty in 1961 as a Research Associate in the Graduate School of Nutrition. In 1970, she was appointed to the professorial faculty as an Associate Professor, and was promoted to full Professor in 1976. Professor Roe also held appointments in the Department of Medicine of the Cornell Medical College, and at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse.

Professor Roe was recognized internationally as an outstanding teacher and researcher whose career spanned over four decades of achievement. Her scholarly talent was recognized early in her career by the award in 1950 of the Chesterfield Medal in Dermatology by the Institute of Dermatology, London. Later in her career, she was named a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, received the Lederle Award from the American Institute of Nutrition and the Joseph B. Goldberger Award in Clinical Nutrition from the American Medical Association, and was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Nutrition in 1990.

Recognition of Professor Roe as an outstanding educator grew from the many students she mentored through graduate studies, classes she taught in both the undergraduate and graduate curricula, and from the many texts she authored on various aspects of clinical nutrition. During her career at Cornell she taught classes in several subjects, including geriatric nutrition, public health nutrition, nutritional toxicology, and methods of human metabolic study. She attracted graduate students from around the world, and was keenly interested in nutritional problems of developing countries. Many of her former students have gone on to productive careers in academia, industry, medicine, and government. A sensitive and caring mentor, Professor Roe would often have students living in her home. She authored and edited 21 books and contributed to over 60 other books on various aspects of clinical nutrition related to aging, drug-nutrient interactions, and toxicology. Her treatise on the history of pellagra is considered a classic.

Professor Roe made significant contributions in many areas of nutrition research, weaving interests in geriatrics, drug-nutrient interactions, toxicology, carotenoids, and photodermatology. Her work is documented in over 150 original publications in the peer reviewed literature and invited reviews in her recognized areas of expertise. These papers, many utilizing imaginative approaches, expanded knowledge of the many aspects of health and disease

that influence vitamin utilization and requirements. Recently she was recognized for her contributions to the understanding of nutritional problems and food-drug interactions in older persons. Professor Roe was one of the first to draw attention to the subtle effects of chronic drug administration on nutritional status, particularly in vulnerable populations. Her recent appointment to the Committee on Nutrition and Aging of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences recognized her significant contributions in geriatric nutrition. Other recent research of note included the study of effects of ultraviolet light exposure on immune function, and the photoprotective effects of *β*-carotene. Having received medical training in dermatology, she was concerned with the effects of excessive sun exposure, particularly in the elderly. Combining imagination and curiosity with a constructively critical mind, Professor Roe was an effective collaborator. She was especially eager to offer her clinical talents and experience to colleagues interested in aspects of human metabolism. She carried out fruitful collaborative projects in many areas, such as regulation of energy intake, and the relationship between oral nitrate reduction and endogenous formation of N-nitrosoamino acids.

In addition to her teaching and research activities in nutritional sciences, Professor Roe was a practicing dermatologist. Prior to her appointment to the Cornell faculty, Professor Roe served at St. John's Hospital, London, first as Registrar for Diseases of the Skin (1948-52), then as First Assistant in Dermatology and Radiotherapy. After coming to the U.S., she served as a Research Associate in Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania and the Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware. She continued her practice in the Ithaca area and was an Honorary Member of the Central New York Dermatological Society. She passed on her love of medicine through her involvement with the Health Careers Program at Cornell, and always made time for counseling students interested in medical school.

Although diminutive in size, Professor Roe possessed boundless energy, infectious enthusiasm, and emotional strength. A devoted mother of three (David, Adrian, and Laura), she combined her crisp intellect with wisdom, wit, and kindness. When her beloved husband of thirty-four years, Shad (Albert S. Roe, Professor of Art History, Cornell University) passed away in 1988, her many activities continued unabated. At the time of her death, Professor Roe was preparing for a third career, that as a priest in the Episcopal Church. She had long been an active member of the Episcopal Church at Cornell, and was instrumental in the endowment of its chaplaincy. This new challenge, taken on at age 70, typified Professor Roe's life as a helper-healer. Throughout her career, she championed the cause of the impoverished, lonely, elderly person, in need of medical and nutritional advice delivered with a caring

heart and hand. Her remarkable life will continue to serve as a role model for students and colleagues alike, a life with space for science, family, lifelong learning, and giving.

*Cutberto Garza, David A. Levitsky, Robert S. Parker*