

John Edward Kinsella

February 22, 1938 — May 2, 1993

John Kinsella was born in Ireland and received his Bachelor's degree in Dublin. He received his Master's and Doctorate degrees at Penn State in biology and food chemistry in 1965 and 1967 respectively. Cornell's Dairy Science Department hired John in 1967 to replace Professor Krukovsky to teach lipid chemistry as one of his responsibilities.

Within a very short time, John established himself as a leading researcher in the physical chemistry of food proteins, as well as in lipid biochemistry. Space in Stocking Hall was soon stretched to accommodate researchers that came from far and wide to study and work with Professor Kinsella. He and his associates applied the results of their research to improve food, and formulated new uses for lipid and protein fractions. These efforts were extended into a myriad of related programs that were health related. He worked on the mechanism of lipid oxidation, the effects of natural antioxidants, and the nutritional value of polyunsaturated fatty acids. Through John's vision, as well as his leadership, important changes in departmental programs were made.

To his credit, it seems as if almost heaven and earth were moved to secure support and funds to build the new Food Processing and Development Laboratory. What would not be so visible to outsiders would be the subtleness of change he made in focus that attracted new faculty with expertise in biotechnology, chemical engineering, and theoretical biophysics. The Department of Food Science that evolved from dairy science was enriched with an emphasis placed in packaging, toxicology and other areas. The merging of the past with the present with a cadre of young people to challenge the future was set in place to serve the future.

John served as departmental chair (1977-85), associate director of the Institute of Food Science (1977-80), and then director (1987). In 1976, he was the recipient of the Borden Award for his early research accomplishments in the biochemistry of milk lipid biosynthesis. In 1981, he was named the Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Food Biochemistry. In 1984, he was honored by being awarded the first General Foods Distinguished Professor Chair of Food Science. He held several patents, published more than 500 papers, numerous book chapters and reviews, and was the author of one book and the editor of two others. John received many honors and awards. He was named a Fulbright Fellow in 1983, was the recipient of the prestigious Babcock-Hart Award in 1987, the Atwater International Award from the USDA in 1988 and two awards from the American Chemical Society—the Advancement of Food Chemistry Award for Outstanding Research in Chemistry in 1990 and the Spencer Award in 1991. In 1991, John

was also presented with the Stephen S. Chang Award for distinguished research in lipid biochemistry at the 82nd AOCS Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1990, John Kinsella, the distinguished scientist, academic leader and dedicated educator accepted still another challenge, deanship of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at the University of California. Here, too, he was recognized for vision and strength in leading the college through some of its most challenging periods. His dedication to science, scholarship, and service to society was well recognized.

John had so much more to contribute to science with his special gift of vision and leadership which has been lost with his sudden and untimely death. Those of us lucky enough to have known and worked with him realized he was endowed with special gifts that brought great credit to his students, his department, his college, the university, and himself. The twinkling eyes, the short lab coat, and the cup of tea were familiar characteristics of both the young and then later the more mature professor. Regardless of the many national and international accolades and honors that were bestowed on him, he seemed unchanged to those of us with whom he worked. John was modest to a fault and quick to praise others for achievements made in their professional careers. Food science is a better field because of him. We are sure to continue to harvest benefits from his work in the years ahead and these will attest to his distinguished scholarly achievements. A bright star has been extinguished.

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