

Clyde Junior Stormont (1916–2002)



Dr Clyde Junior Stormont was one of the leading scientists studying blood groups and biochemical genetics of animals. In the late 1930s and in the early 1940s, while a graduate student in the laboratory of M. R. Irwin at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA, he devised a new approach to the analysis and description of blood groups in cattle, coining the term 'phenogroups' to indicate the combinatorial arrangements of antigenic factors transmitted as a unit by the parents. He also discovered the J blood group locus of cattle

which was the first soluble blood group system described scientifically. Most of his career was spent on the faculty of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis where he founded and directed the Serology Laboratory. His laboratory was a popular destination for visiting students, postdoctoral fellows and scientists from around the world. Dr Stormont had a total of 15 PhD and 10 MS students, 16 postdoctoral fellows and 20 trainees from 23 countries across four continents.

Dr Stormont, his students and other scientists in his laboratory worked on the qualitative genetics for a wide range of domestic and wild animals. Their approaches ranged from the use of blood groups to investigations of DNA polymorphisms. In addition to genetics research and graduate training, his laboratory provided valuable services to livestock registries by being among the first providing parentage testing services. In recognition of his contributions and impact on the field of animal genetics, he received many awards including election as the first honorary member of the International Society of Animal Genetics in 1976.

In 1982, after 32 years, he retired from the University of California as a full professor at the prestigious step VIII to become Chairman and Director of the Stormont Laboratories, Inc. in Woodland, where he continued to provide commercial typing service for the breeder's associations. He served in such a position until April 2001 when macular degeneration and arthritis forced his retirement from the laboratory.

Clyde Junior Stormont, PhD, passed away on September 10, 2002 at the Woodland Memorial Hospital, California at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite, his brother Charles, his children Bonnie, Michael, Robert, Charles and Janet, and a grandson, Clyde, Jr.

For more information see the website: <http://www.isag.org.uk/stormont2.pdf>