

In memory of our dear colleague:

T. Kevin Bell

June 16, 1936–December 23, 2018



With great regret, we announce that our dearly loved colleague Thomas Kevin Bell passed away at the age of 82 on Sunday, December 23, 2018, in Brisbane, Australia. Kevin was well known for his scientific contributions to animal genetics, for founding and administering the Australian Equine Genetics Research Centre (parentage testing for Thoroughbred horses and cattle), and for his service to the International Society for Animal Genetics as Secretary from 1986 to 1992.

Kevin was born on June 16, 1936, in Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia. In 1954 Kevin enrolled in a Bachelor of Veterinary Science program at the University of Queensland on a Commonwealth scholarship, completing the degree in 1958 with honors. Subsequently, in 1965 Kevin completed a PhD at

the University of Queensland with Professor Butz Olsen. He then spent a year for postdoctoral study at the University of California, Davis, under the direction of Professor Clyde Stormont. In 1967 Kevin married Margaret Williams, and together they had three children: David (1968), Michael (1971), and Christopher (1977).

In 1968 Kevin spent four months in Honolulu to conduct research on the polymorphism of milk proteins. In 1972 Kevin joined the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of Queensland in a teaching and research position. In 1977 he was granted permission by the Australian Stud Book to establish the Australian Blood Typing Laboratory, the first in the southern hemisphere. Its aim was to develop a panel of blood group reagents and biochemical tests that could be used in parentage-testing horses. Tests were also developed for parentage-testing of cattle and other species. Indeed, Kevin was a pioneer in the methods for discovery and testing of genetic markers in animals. In 1986, under an agreement between the University of Queensland and the Joint Proprietors of the Australian Stud Book, the Australian Jockey Club, and the Victoria Racing Club, the laboratory was renamed the Australian Equine Genetics Research Centre.

Despite significant responsibilities teaching and administering the Australian Equine Genetics Research Centre, Kevin was very active in research and made contributions in many areas of animal genetic research. In addition to his research on milk proteins and blood groups, he also described electrophoretic systems to identify biochemical variants in animals, including a complex system to identify extensive polymorphism of protease-inhibitors in horses (previously referred to as pre-albumins),

genetic markers in dogs, cat blood groups, and lymphocyte typing in horses, and he was one of the early leaders of the horse gene mapping workshop.

During his scientific career, Kevin actively participated in national and international conferences and workshops. In 2001, shortly before retiring, Kevin organized the Fourth International Horse Gene Mapping in Brisbane, Australia, under the sponsorship of the Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation.

When not doing brilliant research, Kevin enjoyed gardening, good food and wine—but most of all, his wonderful family: his wife Margie, their three sons, their wives, and nine grandchildren.