The Herald-Times

Lucy Cherbas

Obituary

Lucy Cherbas, a senior research scientist in the Department of Biology, Indiana University, passed away after a long illness on October 10, 2022.

Dr. Cherbas, was born Lucy Fuchsman in New York City, but grew up in Carson City, Nevada, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from Swarthmore College in 1964 and earned her PhD in Biology from Harvard University in 1970.

In her early research she focused on the endocrine control of insect metamorphosis; later she broadened her work to address gene regulation in general. After graduation she collaborated with Prof. Fotis Kafatos at Harvard to study RNA synthesis, then switched to studying hemoglobin biosynthesis, first with Drs. Richard Jackson and Tim Hunt at Cambridge University (U.K.) and subsequently with Prof. Irving London at MIT. In 1976, she elected to join her husband (and former student) Peter Cherbas in his newly-created lab at Harvard

University, and she continued to collaborate with Peter first as a research associate at Harvard (1976-85) and finally as a research scientist at Indiana University (1985-2016). Together they worked on steroid hormones, insect development, and gene regulation in general. She helped create the, now internationally active, Drosophila Genomics Resource Center at IU and, in that context she greatly expanded the availability and utility of Drosophila tissue culture cells.

In addition to her scientific work, Lucy Cherbas was an accomplished pianist who, in her limited spare time as a student and post-doctoral researcher, worked as a professional accompanist of vocalists, first in Cambridge, Massachusetts, then in Cambridge, U.K. She was also an avid, baseball fan.

Lucy is survived by her husband Peter, their daughter Katherine, her grandson, Orlando Shin, and by her brother William Fuchsman and sister Bertha Small.

Lucy's favorite charity was Doctors Without Borders.

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