

On behalf of the Division of Digestive Disease and Nutrition, NIDDK, I want to thank all of you for attending this Festschrift in honor of Roland Weinsier. I apologize to all of you, and most especially to Roland, that I could not be here in person to honor you today.

Unfortunately, I had a previous commitment to speak in South Carolina. I appreciate David Allison delivering these brief remarks in my stead.

I first met Roland about 10 years ago. After my certification as a Physician Nutrition Specialist by the American Board of Nutrition, Roland invited me to help write Board questions for the subsequent ABN exam, and I spent an enjoyable couple of days with Roland, Doug Heimburger, Don Hensrud, and others. At the time, I wondered why all of the food served at the breaks was vegetarian, but thought that the ABN was just trying to set a good example by serving healthy food. I later learned, of course, that this was Roland's doing – and that his intense interest and involvement in the health benefits of nutrition and physical activity ranged from his individual commitment to his commitment to the broader public health, as demonstrated by his service on the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee.

Over the ensuing 10 years, I have had the pleasure of working with Roland in his many capacities: as a member of our National Task Force on Prevention and Treatment of Obesity, the NIH Nutrition Study Section, the FTC partnership on Healthy Weight Management, various Boards and committees of NAASO and ASCN – the list goes on and on. Throughout, all of us have counted on Roland for keeping us grounded in good

science, with clarity of thought and a straightforward style that kept everyone on track.

Roland is also a great editor – I appreciated the reams of red ink with which drafts of my Task Force papers were marked when Roland had finished with them – a trait also appreciated by the many young investigators whom Roland has mentored over the years.

Of course, I've also had the pleasure of serving as Roland's program director at NIDDK for many years, and tracking the progress of the many scientific contributions he's made to the fields of Nutrition and Obesity. I note that today's presenters have discussed topics near and dear to Roland's heart, which range from the causes of obesity, energy metabolism and body composition, through treatments and, of course, the education of physicians in Nutrition Science.

In summary, Roland Weinsier is indeed a model of the “triple threat” – a physician who is a scientist, clinician, and educator of the highest rank. More importantly, he is also a “mensch” – a fine human being, who has devoted his career to nurturing young investigators, promoting the science of Nutrition, and advancing the public health. I consider it a great privilege to have had the opportunity to work with him over the years.

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