

GLENN VINTON RUSSELL

December 30, 1922 - October 18, 1985
Alpha Helix of the Cajal Club, 1974 - 1985

Duane E. Haines
Department of Anatomy
The University of Mississippi Medical Center
Jackson, MS

Dr. Glenn V. Russell was an enthusiastic and supportive member of the Cajal Club for many years. He was the Nissl Body (Vice President) from 1968-1969, the Nucleolus (President) from 1969-70, and the Alpha Helix (Archivist/Historian) from 1974-1985. In addition, Dr. Russell was the very able "Editor and Publisher" of the "Proceedings of the Cajal Club" through three volumes. These proceedings were issued from the "Cajal Club Press" in 1973 (Volume 1), 1977 (Volume 2), and 1985 (Volume 3).

Dr. Russell was born on December 30, 1922 in St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from Montclair High School (New Jersey) in 1940 and immediately enrolled at Cornell University. His progress toward the bachelors degree (received in 1948) was interrupted by military service. He received the M.A. degree in 1949 and the Ph.D. degree in 1951 under the supervision of Dr. James Papez.

In 1951 Dr. Russell joined the Department of Anatomy at the University of Texas Medical Branch as an Instructor of Anatomy. He was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1953, to Associate Professor in 1956, and to Professor in 1970. In 1964 and 1965 he was a Reader in Anatomy at Makerere University College, Kampala, Uganda and also served as the Acting Chairman of Anatomy in 1965.

At the University of Texas Medical Branch, Dr. Russell was very active in departmental and school activities in addition to his service to the Cajal Club. He was active in the American Association of University Professors at the institutional, state, and national level. He also

rendered a great deal of service to Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society as Treasurer (1957-1963, 1979-1985) and Chapter Delegate (1974-1985) at the institutional level, and in a variety of offices and capacities at the national level from 1977-1985. In addition, he was a member of the Galveston Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience and an officer in this group (1977-1985), and the Executive Secretary and Secretary-Treasurer of the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas (1978-1985).



Figure 27. Dr. Glenn V. Russell

Within the Department of Anatomy, Dr. Russell was primarily involved in the teaching of neuroanatomy to medical and graduate students. His command of neuroanatomical details was broad-based, spanning the range from avian - mammals - humans, and he brought the comparative approach to the forefront in his teaching of graduate students. He was regarded as an excellent teacher by the students; in the words of one of his former students, he was a "teacher's teacher". Students also consider Dr. Russell very approachable, and he greatly enjoyed attending student functions and picnics. In addition to introductory level medical and graduate instruction, Dr. Russell also taught advanced neuro courses where he especially emphasized the comparative approach.

Dr. Russell was a member of eight professional societies including the Cajal Club, American Association of Anatomists, and the Society for Neuroscience. He was also involved in local community groups such as the Galveston Boy's Club, Friends of Texas Libraries, and the Galveston United Way. In all of these endeavors Dr. Russell contributed his time not only as a member, but also as an officer or in some other official capacity. Yachting, however, was an especially consuming avocation. He was extensively involved in the Galveston Yacht Club (1963-1985), the Texas Yachting Association (1971-1985), and the United States Yacht Racing Union (1977-1985) in a variety of offices, committees, and other official capacities. It was, while driving to a meeting of the U.S. Yacht Racing Union north of Atlanta, that Dr. Russell died unexpectedly on October 18, 1985.

During his time at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Dr. Russell was the research supervisor for 4 M.A. degree students and 2 Ph.D. degree students. He was, in addition, a member of the supervisory committee for 5 M.A. students and 12 Ph.D. students. His love of teaching neuroanatomy probably had its highest expression in his contact with graduate students. Those former graduate students contacted in the preparation of this brief biography spoke of Dr. Russell in the most glowing terms.

According to a copy of Dr. Russell's CV dated May, 1985, he had 20 publications in peer-

reviewed journals, 2 papers in Proceedings of the Cajal Club, 6 book chapters, and about 28 abstracts. In addition, he was invited to speak in a number of symposia or to participate as a discussant. Dr. Russell, as noted above, was also Editor of 3 volumes of the Proceedings of the Cajal Club. Of particular note, however, was his involvement along with Drs. A. Pineda and K. M. Earle in the translation of "The Microscopic Anatomy of Tumors of the Central and Peripheral Nervous System" by Dr. P. del Rio-Hortega in English. This effort was published by C. C. Thomas in 1962.

The Cajal Club is certainly indebted to Dr. Glenn V. Russell for his many years of support, for his excellent stewardship of the office of Alpha Helix, and for his production of 3 volumes of our proceedings. We are all the richer for having walked this mile with him. The reader is encouraged to consult the biographical sketch written by Dr. W. J. Hild for further, and more detailed, information.

Acknowledgments: The Alpha Helix is indebted to Mrs. Joyce Russell for personal remembrances, to Dr. W. D. Willis for general information, the photograph used above, and a copy of Dr. Russell's CV, and to Dr. M. Matthews for insightful comments.

References:

Hild, W. J. 1986. Glenn Vinton Russell 1922-1985. *Anat. Rec.* 216:245-246.

Pineda, A., G. V. Russell and K.M. Earle. 1962. *The Microscopic Anatomy of Tumors of the Central and Peripheral Nervous System*, by P. del Rio-Hortega. A translation into English. C. C. Thomas, 246 pp.