



## Edward Arthur Hoover

November 18, 1942 - March 1, 2023

Edward “Ed” A. Hoover passed away peacefully on March 1, 2023, with family at his side. Ed was born on November 18, 1942, to Marian Brunn Hoover and Edward Hoover in Chicago, Illinois. He spent his childhood exploring the Near North neighborhood of Chicago, around Wrigley Field, the home of his beloved Cubs, and not far from Lake Michigan, living out many Hardy Boys-like adventures. His home above the McKillip Animal Hospital, home to Buzzy the McCaw, undoubtedly imprinted his eventual career choice. While the kennel of barking dogs below his bedroom did not bother him at the time, it may have led to his adulthood flight-fight response upon hearing a dog barking perhaps neighborhoods away. Ed had fond childhood memories of his summers at Grandma Brunn’s house in Berwyn with his sister, Sandy, and beloved cousins Pat, Mary, Judy, Susan, and Bill.

Ed attended Our Lady of Mt Carmel and Lane Technical schools. Upon graduation he trained for one year at Illinois Institute of Technology, intending to become an architect. After determining his artistic visions were best expressed in two versus three dimensions, Ed took his curiosity to the University of Illinois, where he received his bachelor’s then Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1967. He received his MS and PhD in 1970 at Ohio State University, completing a residency and board certification in veterinary pathology in 1972. He launched his research career by studying viruses of cats, focusing on feline leukemia virus.

In 1981, Ed became head of the Department of Pathology at Colorado State University and moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, with his former wife, Jane Hoover, and their three children. Over his 40-plus-year career at CSU, he built the tradition of multidisciplinary biomedical research training for veterinarians. His laboratory conducted seminal work in feline virology and HIV research. In collaboration with colleague Jim Mullins, Ed's lab developed the first successful vaccine for feline leukemia virus, which is now used worldwide to immunize millions of cats against leukemia. More recently, his work on prion diseases uncovered key details about transmission and detection of chronic wasting disease, an epidemic in deer and other animals. In recognition of this work, Ed was named one of twelve University Distinguished Professors at Colorado State University in 2004, elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2014, National Academy of Inventors in 2017, and received numerous other awards.

But Ed considered his most treasured accomplishment to be mentoring 27 graduate students, mostly DVM-PhDs, whose inquisitiveness and creativity he nurtured. Many of Ed's former mentees are leading today's veterinary medical research, including more than half a dozen who hold leadership roles at CSU. In addition to his own students, Ed also helped secure grants that funded post-graduate training for over three dozen individuals, and he was instrumental in CSU's combined DVM-PhD training program which has received national recognition.

These accolades illustrate Ed's tremendous impact in the scientific community but do not capture the nature of his life force. His unique, relentless curiosity included many topics: the beauty and form of structures, the ways art and science intersect, human nature vs. nurture, how words develop meanings, for example. To a person, those who have known Ed recall how a conversation with him would inevitably wander from the initial topic into a cavernous maze

of associations, intriguing and often humorous. His obsessions were too numerous to count: trees, very specific coffee preparation, daily exercise regimens, correct grammar (preferably with wordplay), beautifully addressed package return labels, low-fat meals, fashionable and/or comfortable clothes within his color wheel, dental hygiene, automobile type and maintenance, shoes (for himself and family members), ample stores of tape in well-organized boxes, a love of ocean surf yet a fear of drowning, watering the hell out of countless plants, adjusting light and sound levels, finding the perfect seat in the restaurant, and optimization of life in all ways; for this, he earned the affectionate nickname “Mr. Picky-Poo” from stepdaughter Sarah.

After his family and friends, Ed’s next greatest love was trees. He planted well over 100 trees in the foothills of Loveland at his Spring Glade home where he lived with his wife Sue and three stepchildren. Most of these plantings required pickaxe and pry bar excavation. He would water his “forest” for hours, and when preparing to move from Spring Glade to Fort Collins in 2017, he painstakingly labeled each tree to indicate its species and type. Ed spent hours at Fort Collins and Creekside Nurseries, looking at the latest selection and talking to the nursery’s tree specialists, and was rarely able to resist buying yet another. In his later years, Ed developed a particular fondness for oaks, planting more than a dozen at his home in Applewood (on Apple Drive), and sprouting acorns in an experiment designed to determine if the floating characteristics of these seeds correlated with germination (the results were inconclusive).

Ed was famous for his doodles. He never attended a seminar without a particular type of pen and notebook. The uninitiated would think that Ed was taking copious notes, but those in the know realized he was penning more of his characteristic abstract yet geometric line drawings. Each of these drawings was fascinating, and different than all others. Repeating characters included

stick figure Ed, Noseman, and of course, cats. His drawing talent reflected his interests in space, patterns, lines of sight, and the absurd or unexpected.

During his last months of life, Ed embraced new loves: scrambled eggs with cheese and yolks, ham, Jeni's ice cream, visitors in his home and by his bedside—and he glowed in the love of friends and family. In particular, he relished the visits of his children and stepchildren, particularly when those visits coincided. He realized the beauty of life that is separate from physical ability, no longer spending hours at the gym, in his office, or on his bicycle, and he cherished his connections with life.

Ed passed away at Pathways Inpatient Hospice in Fort Collins on March 1, 2023, after an eight-month course of lung cancer. He was predeceased by his mother, Marian, his father, Edward, and brother-in-law Tom Clark. He is survived by his wife, Sue VandeWoude, his sister, Sandra Clark (Arlington Heights, IL), children Susan (Kurt Griffin; Sioux Falls, SD), Matthew (Robin Lloyd; Chico, CA), and Karen (Bart Hammerly; Vancouver, WA) Hoover; stepchildren Eric (Ashley Kipp; Williamsburg, VA), Eston (Boulder, CO), and Sarah (Anthony Alvarez; Costa Rica) Schweickart; sisters-in-law Gail VandeWoude (Orlando, FL), Cynthia VandeWoude (Grand Rapids, MI), Alice (Peter) Fens, nieces Maureen (David) Resac (Mt. Prospect, IL), Megan (George) Leone (Palatine, IL), Kathleen (William) Ferguson (Chicago, IL), grandnieces Caitlin Resac and Sophia Leone, and grandnephews Brayden Resac and Benjamin Leone.

Springtime celebrations are being planned to honor Ed's life and spirit. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in Ed's memory be directed to Pathways Hospice, <https://pathways-care.org/ways-to-give/>, 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins CO, 80525. Memorials to honor Ed's life's work are being established at Colorado State University.



# Tribute Wall

JD

“ I had the very good fortune to work under and be mentored by Dr Hoover while in veterinary school at CSU in the early 80's. Always patient, kind and of good humor. Gave me opportunities to explore and expand my horizons. Quick with wisdom and slow with criticism when mistakes were made. Under him I learned I wasn't cut out to be a researcher and pursued a clinical career where I was more successful. I was and still am grateful for my time working under him. Sorry I never told him personally. James Day DVM

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**James Day DVM** - October 18, 2024 at 10:40 PM

SM

“ I just heard about Ed passing away while on a call with a group of scientists from CSU, and the news has filled me with sadness. I had the very good fortune to be a postdoc in Ed's lab, which was my first foray moving from UK to the USA. I vividly recall Ed meeting me at the airport and wanting to discuss nothing except how much he appreciated Monty Python! I will always remember Ed as a wonderful, funny, kind man and a great and inspiring scientist. Thank you, Ed for being a great mentor and friend.

*Sally Mossman, Sanofi Vaccines, Maryland.*

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**Sally Mossman** - May 17, 2023 at 02:46 PM

NH

“ I just learned of Ed's death last weekend when I was enjoying a weekend with my scientist girlfriends. I am sending love and good wishes to Sue and all of his extended family. Ed was so kind to invite me to come to CSU a few years ago (4 years almost to the day) for the Women in Science Symposium, where I enjoyed laughing and reminiscing and talking about science and life. I am so sad that we have lost this warm, brilliant, and inspiring person, and I will do my best to carry his light forward. I joined the retrovirus family in the 1980s and followed Ed's work and life ever since. I so appreciate his gifts to us.

-Nancy Haigwood, Oregon Health & Science University

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Nancy L Haigwood - April 23, 2023 at 01:50 PM



“ I'm sorry I'm late with this, but I just learned of Ed's death. My thoughts are with Sue and all his family. Ed was a wonderful, smart, funny and caring mentor to me as I pursued a PhD in his lab during the late 1990s. He had a quiet way of encouraging people, especially when things weren't going well. I purposefully chose his lab because of his mentoring ability and the supportive culture he engendered. I can honestly say I wouldn't have succeeded without him. He also had great parties 😊 MIP won't be the same without him.

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Robin Jasper - April 14, 2023 at 11:23 AM

MZ

“ I will miss our weekly chats, ostensibly about science but so much more. Success. Failures. Joy. Sorrow. Humor. The human operating system. Plants. Coffee. The North Side of Chicago. And of course, the Cubs. Ed was a great mentor, but an even greater friend to me and so many others. I remember him as kind, gentle. smart, insightful, joyful and wise. With much love, my friend. Every day in paradise.

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**Mark D Zabel** - March 14, 2023 at 02:06 PM

MA

“ I remember Dr. Hoover talking to us at LAR about his prion research shortly after I started at CSU. He described it very well for the non-scientists the comprised our staff. His distinguished appearance always made me smile whenever I passed him on campus.

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**Michelle Adams** - March 10, 2023 at 12:43 PM

DB

“ Many years ago, I had several discussions with Ed on his fiscal duties as the new Head of the Pathology Department. As a faculty member, he saw things very differently than I did as the College Fiscal Officer. Ed tried to fit the art of fiscal administration into his precise, research oriented mindset which of course left many questions in his mind. After a great deal of honest discussion and thoughtful observations, we came to agreement on how we would interact. I found his offbeat sense of humor refreshing and insightful, a joy to work with. Godspeed, Ed! Dennis Bogott

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**Dennis Bogott** - March 09, 2023 at 05:23 PM

SV

“ 3 files added to the album random photos



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**Sue VandeWoude** - March 09, 2023 at 02:12 PM

FG

“ *I will always remember Ed for the concern and mentoring he provided his students. He nurtured every one of them and helped them launch into remarkable careers, and that impact goes on forever. I consider that a remarkable achievement. And besides, he was sincere, honest, thoughtful, and very funny. I will miss him. I wish he didn't need to leave.*

*Frank Garry*

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**Franklyn Garry** - March 08, 2023 at 11:09 PM

MD

“ *A lot of kitties are thankful to Ed. May your memory be a blessing.*

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**Mary Carlson DVM** - March 08, 2023 at 02:43 PM

TH

“ *I found Dr. Hoover to be very kind and accommodating. He was open and honest with his perspective, but also listened carefully and strongly considered opinions from others. I worked with him on a few committees and respected him as a gentleman and a scholar. We will certainly miss him. Blessings to his family.*

*Tod Hansen*

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**Tod Hansen** - March 08, 2023 at 12:59 PM

CO

“ I had so many fun conversations with Ed over the years! My husband's favorite memory of Ed was him dancing on a chair in a black cat costume at a Halloween party. He was rocking and swinging that big old black cat tail. My husband, a teacher at the time, found it hilarious that a School Board Member was doing that

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**Christine Olver** - March 08, 2023 at 12:02 PM

KG

“ Ed lit up the room when he entered; he warmly greeted everyone and smiled and joked. I will remember his warm smile forever. Rest in peace Ed. Kathy Galvin

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**Kathy Galvin** - March 07, 2023 at 10:39 AM

WF

“ It was always delightful spending time with Ed. He was amiable, charismatic, endearing, and made a mean Manhattan & martini. I'll miss shooting the breeze with him at Sandy's. I'm so sorry for your loss and I'll be keeping him in my thoughts.



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**William Ferguson** - March 06, 2023 at 08:11 PM