

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEONELL C. STRONG '17 MEMORIAL FUND

The income from this fund, established by Dr. Wilson W. Strong, Jr., Class of 1965, and Dr. Sherry G. Westerland Strong, Class of 1965, is used to provide scholarship assistance to a student or students of Allegheny majoring in biology or who intend to attend medical, dental, or veterinary school. Recipients are selected primarily upon the basis of academic merit.

The Leonell C. Strong '17 Memorial Scholarship was created by his grandson, Wilson W. Strong, Jr., Class of 1965, in memory of both the man and his work in genetic and cancer research.

Dr. Strong was a pioneer in cancer research. According to the National Cancer Institute, his development of mouse strains high in spontaneous cancer was “the greatest contribution in the history of cancer research and one of the greatest in the history of medicine.”

Allegheny professor Chester Darling introduced Strong, then a student, to genetics. Approximately 60 years later, he (Strong) discovered a natural biological substance that stabilizes the genetic apparatus, inducing the permanent regression of cancer in mice and thus preventing the occurrence of cancer in the offspring of treated mothers. Dr. Strong was also the first to offer laboratory proof that cancer is genetic.

Dr. Strong held teaching positions at Yale Medical School and Columbia University, as well as having affiliations with Roswell Park Memorial Institute and the Jonas Salk Foundation. In 1968 he founded and became director of the Leonell C. Strong Research Foundation in San Diego, California.

The National Institute of Health and Perugia University of Italy bestowed honors upon Dr. Strong for his contributions to science through the development of the mouse model system. Allegheny College honored him with a Doctor of Science degree as well as the Gold Citation.

Dr. Strong died August 31, 1982 in LaJolla, California.

Letters of appreciation may be addressed to:

Dr. Wilson W. Strong, Jr. and Dr. Sherry Westerland Strong