

*At a Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on May 3, 2005, the following Minute was placed upon the records.*

### PHILIP SEIDMAN HOLZMAN

Born: May 2, 1922

Died: June 1, 2004

Philip S. Holzman, Ph.D., Esther and Sidney R. Rabb Professor, *Emeritus*, in the Department of Psychology and Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; and Director, Psychology Research Laboratory, McLean Hospital, died on June 1, 2004, at the age of 82. Professor Holzman left an extraordinary legacy of scientific achievements elucidating the pathophysiology and genetics of schizophrenia.

Born in New York City, Professor Holzman earned his bachelor's degree from the College of the City of New York. After discharge from the Army following the end of World War II, he trained at the Winter Veterans Administration Hospital and the Menninger Foundation School of Clinical Psychology in Topeka, Kansas, and earned a doctoral degree from the University of Kansas. From 1951 to 1968 he was a member of the clinical staff of the Menninger Foundation, where he also served as Director of Research Training. In 1963 he became a training and supervising psychoanalyst at the Topeka Institute for Psychoanalysis. He joined the Departments of Behavioral Sciences and Psychiatry at the University of Chicago in 1968. In 1977 he joined the Department of Psychology at Harvard and established a research laboratory at McLean Hospital, in collaboration with the Laboratories of Psychiatric Research founded by Seymour Kety.

Professor Holzman had a magic touch in his experimental work. He mastered new areas in order to pursue a finding in all of its ramifications. His research on schizophrenia was preceded by distinguished careers as a clinical psychologist immersed in psychoanalytic theory and treatment and as a student of individual differences in perceptual organization. He wrote widely on clinical topics: *Psychoanalysis and Psychopathology*, *An Outline of Freud's Ideas and Their Evolution*, and (with Karl Menninger) *Theory of Psychoanalytic Technique*. In collaboration with George Klein, Herbert Schlesinger and others, he studied the effects of motivation, drive regulation, memory, defenses, and reality constraints on different styles of regulating cognition. This body of work led to the invention of the concepts of cognitive controls, cognitive styles, and perceptual and cognitive attitudes which became part of the lexicon of general psychology.

At the University of Chicago, Professor Holzman asked whether the stable organizing cognitive strategies found in individuals without serious psychopathology are characteristic of individuals with psychotic conditions. He probed the manifestations of psychomotor impairments in psychosis and developed a metric for quantifying and identifying the kinds of thought disorder associated with various psychotic conditions. After learning that the vestibular system of schizophrenics was either hyporesponsive or completely unresponsive, he embarked on a study of vestibular reactivity which, serendipitously, led to the discovery of eye tracking dysfunction.

At Harvard, Holzman continued to probe the pathophysiology of schizophrenia through careful measurement of physiological and cognitive processes. Initially, the rationale for studying healthy family

members of schizophrenics was methodological. Because schizophrenics perform abnormally on most experimental tasks, it is hard to tell whether their performance is poor because of some pathological process that is fundamental to the illness or for secondary reasons, such as the effects of psychosis, pharmacologic treatment, or the generalized deficits that accompany schizophrenic disorganization. If the same phenomena occur in healthy relatives, the results cannot be attributed to the secondary effects of being ill.

It soon became clear that there was an equally important reason to study the psychiatrically well relatives of schizophrenics. Certain traits associated with schizophrenia were also over-represented in their well relatives, including eye tracking dysfunction, thought disorder, spatial working memory deficits, and certain forms of craniofacial dysmorphism. These traits occur in schizophrenia families at a much higher rate than the primary signs of schizophrenia and at a much higher rate than in the general population. Twin studies showed that the genetics of eye tracking disorder was consistent with an autosomal dominant gene. Shortly before his death, Professor Holzman was able to report confirmation of linkage between eye tracking dysfunction and a locus on chromosome 6.

Professor Holzman had an endless capacity for collaborating with a diverse array of experts, and for mentoring students. Students and post-doctoral fellows flocked to him at Harvard and the University of Chicago. His door was always open, and he welcomed visitors with a twinkle in his eye and a beaming smile. He was a beloved friend and colleague, nurturing mentor, and intrepid researcher who enriched generations of scholars. His extraordinary vision, wisdom, humor, relentless enthusiasm and effervescent optimism inspired all who worked with him.

Professor Holzman was the recipient of many awards, including the Lieber Prize from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD), the American Psychological Foundation Gold Medal Award for lifetime achievement in the field of psychology, the Stanley R. Dean Award from the American College of Psychiatrists, the William K. Warren Award from the International Congress on Schizophrenia Research, the Joseph Zubin Award of the Society for Research in Psychopathology, the Salmon Medal of the New York Academy of Medicine, the City College of New York Award for Distinguished Contributions in Psychology, and the Townsend Harris Medal of City College of New York. He was honored for exceptional research and mentoring by the American Psychological Foundation as the first recipient of the Alexander Gralnick Research Investigator Award. Professor Holzman was a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Menninger Foundation. He served on the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Health Program of the John and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and was a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors of NARSAD.

Professor Holzman is survived by Ann, his wife of 58 years, daughter Natalie, sons Carl and Paul, son-in-law Gene Bernardoni, daughter-in-law Mira Kopell, and three grandchildren, Joseph, Neena and Daniel.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Levy (HMS)  
Steven Matthyse (HMS)

Ken Nakayama  
Jerome Kagan, Chair