

Resolution in Memoriam

Nancy Swords Jenny, PhD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

1964 – 2017

Presented by Debra Leonard, MD, PhD

Chair and Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

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Dr. Nancy Jenny, Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, died suddenly on June 13th, 2018, after a tragic accident which occurred as she tended to her horses at her home stables with her husband, Rick Jenny, PhD. Nancy was born on May 12, 1964 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and soon after moved to Rutland, Vermont where she and her two siblings grew up. Nancy had a deep and abiding love for Vermont, which was one of the forces influencing her and Rick to develop Brigham Hill Stables, LLC at their home in Essex. Nancy, Rick and their two children all rode competitively, and provided stabling for their horses and many others.

Nancy loved science. She received both a Bachelor's degree in 1986 and her PhD in 1990 in Chemistry from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She then joined the University of Vermont laboratory of Dr. Ken Mann as a biochemistry post-doctoral fellow, where she met her husband-to-be Dr. Rick Jenny. While Rick went into the Biotech industry, Nancy stayed in academia and in 1999 joined the faculty of the Pathology Department as a Research Associate. She progressed through the ranks to Associate Professor in 2012.

While Nancy's initial training was in chemistry and biochemistry, she switched to molecular epidemiology when she joined the Department of Pathology's Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research working with Dr. Russel Tracy. Nancy took to epidemiology with her characteristic enthusiasm, creativity and dedication. Nationally, Nancy was considered a mid-career "star," with numerous honors and awards. She sat on dozens of committees for major national epidemiology cohort studies and consortia. Her special interests were the associations of the immune system with aging-related diseases such as cardiovascular disease and dementia, an area of immense importance in the health and quality of life of our aging American population. Nancy's research included hundreds of collaborations nationally and internationally.

Nancy had more than 170 publications in top-tier scientific journals and in major textbooks, helping to define the role of inflammation in chronic disease, a step critical to ultimately developing the best possible lifestyle choices and interventions. Her stature at the national level was easily demonstrated by her appointment to many committees of the 2.4 million-member American Heart Association, where she was an elected Fellow. She

was on the Editorial Board of the top journal in her field, *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology*. At the University of Vermont, Nancy contributed as a member of several committees such as the Educational Research Technology Committee. In the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, she had served on 10 different committees including the Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Committee. Despite being focused on research, Nancy also taught graduate and medical students with high praise over the years.

Nancy was a bright, friendly, and extremely competent person, outstanding researcher, and a great colleague and friend. Along with her love for, and dedication to, her family, she had major impacts on research in molecular epidemiology nationally, the academic life of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the Larner College of Medicine, and the community of Essex, Vermont. She is deeply missed by family, friends and colleagues.