

Jerrold Schwaber, PhD, an immunologist and cell biologist who independently conceived the concept and technique for monoclonal antibodies (hybridomas) died in his home in Haddonfield, New Jersey at the age of 67 on June 6, 2014.

As a graduate student at the University of Chicago, he fused human lymphocytes to mouse myeloma tumor cells and proved that the resulting hybrid cells made both human and mouse immunoglobulins. This work, published in Nature in 1973, laid the groundwork for the development of monoclonal antibodies. In 1975, Kohler and Milstein followed up on his work which led to their receipt of the 1984 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Dr Schwaber continued his research into genetic causes of immunodeficiency. In 1992 he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jeffrey Modell Foundation. Cell lines from patients with primary immunodeficiency that he developed were donated to the Coriell Institute for Medical Research in Camden, New Jersey. He worked at Harvard Medical School, Hahnemann and Jefferson University.

Born in Evanston, Illinois, he was the third of four sons. He is survived by his wife, Susan Hoch MD, his sons, Jason and Jeff, and four grandchildren. He loved to cook, work with wood, rebuild houses, scuba dive, bike, listen to classical music, opera and jazz and read.

Contributions in his name should be made to the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) or the American Society for Human Genetics (ASHG).