

UC Irvine

UC Irvine Previously Published Works

Title

Recognition: Robert Terry and Robert Katzman

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1fc390fn>

Journal

Alzheimer's & Dementia, 1(1)

ISSN

1552-5260

Author

Kawas, Claudia

Publication Date

2005-07-01

DOI

10.1016/j.jalz.2005.06.007

Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Peer reviewed

Recognition: Robert Terry and Robert Katzman

Claudia Kawas*

Department of Neurology, Neurobiology & Behavior, Al and Trish Nichols Chair in Clinical Neuroscience, University of California, Irvine, CA USA

In 1976, Drs. Robert Terry and Robert Katzman published articles in the *Archives of Neurology* launching us into the modern era of Alzheimer's disease (AD) research [1,2]. As a medical student at the time, I had learned from standard textbooks of neurology that Alzheimer's disease was a "presenile" disorder and rare enough that I would likely never see a case.

It was the first of many times that "the Bobs" would eventually set me straight.

Katzman and Terry—it is difficult to say one name without the other—made seminal contributions to our understanding of the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of Alzheimer's disease over more than 3 decades. Working together, they published hundreds of articles spanning bench and clinical research. Clearly, they moved the field of AD research in paths that will be cited for decades to come.

To my mind, however, their most lasting contribution to the field may well be their roles in developing a new generation of basic and clinical scientists who have gone on to devote their lives to studying the complex problems of aging and AD. They engaged young scientists in the field, turned on our interest and imagination, taught us to think outside the box, and encouraged us to conduct the highest quality research to find answers to very important questions. As one who benefited from their training more than 20 years ago, I can testify that they are not finished yet.

These illustrious scientists may technically be retired and no longer in full-time research, but their ideas and interest continue to actively engage the field. In March of this year,

Dr. Terry contacted me with his thoughts about our pathologic investigations of dementia in the oldest of the old—findings that he (somehow) became aware of before they were presented at the April 2005 meeting of the American Academy of Neurology. Dr. Katzman remains a consultant to numerous investigations, including my own epidemiologic studies of aging. I cannot thank him enough for steering me to what has been a truly rewarding career. His ideas and expertise have fueled all of my studies, and his tireless support and good advice have been even more crucial to me in recent years than when I first started. I think I speak for many when I express gratitude for their extraordinary mentorship.

Fifteen years ago, Dr. Katzman suggested that I consider exploring the potential role of folate in the development of AD. His high-risk (and potentially high-yield) suggestion finally sees the light of day in this inaugural issue of *Alzheimer's and Dementia: Journal of the Alzheimer's Association* [3]. It is fitting that his ideas continue to launch the journal of an organization that he was integral in founding—the Alzheimer's Association. It will not be the last time, I am certain, that we see ideas from Bob Katzman or Bob Terry in this journal. Many senior and junior scientists are still standing on their very broad shoulders.

References

- [1] Terry RD. Dementia: a brief and selective review. *Arch Neurol* 1976; 33:1–4.
- [2] Katzman R. The prevalence and malignancy of Alzheimer's disease. *Arch Neurol* 1976;33:217–8.
- [3] Corrada MM, Kawas CH, Hallfrisch J, Muller D, Brookmeyer R. Reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease with high folate intake: The Baltimore longitudinal study of aging. *Alz Dem J Alz Assoc* 1:11–8.

*Corresponding author.
E-mail address: ckawas@uci.edu