

Shinya Inoue, a life dedicated to education

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Clean optics and happy cells; Shinya was famous for teaching anyone in his laboratory this simple lesson. Shinya's first academic appointment was at Dartmouth College (1959-'66), then University of Pennsylvania (1966-'82), after which he joined the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. During this time, Shinya taught many scientists. Arguably, Shinya's educational vision is probably most well exemplified by the Analytical and Quantitative Light Microscopy (AQLM) course he started with his former graduate student Ted Salmon in 1971 at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. Shinya himself learned by making close partnerships with industrial leaders who helped make his innovations reality, for example rectified optics with Nikon and the video processor ("toaster") with Hamamatsu. Pulling from this philosophy, a key component to AQLM to this day is the "industrial faculty" who impart their knowledge on the students and academic faculty alike through their participation in instruction. Shinya's drive to teach people microscopy at the most fundamental level has taught many biologists to unlock the wealth of data carried in light after interaction with matter. The only way to use a microscope in science is to derive numbers from the information; how many microtubules are in that bundle, how fast is the flagellum beating, etc. In the end, if you can not keep you cells happy, all the optical tricks in the world will not deliver the data you are after, one requires the other.