

2014 – Marion L. Greaser



Marion Lewis Greaser was born in Vinton Iowa to Lewis and Elisabeth Greaser. Marion grew up on a farm with his sister Frances. His father was a farmer and a former member of the Iowa House of Representatives; his mother was a third grade teacher before she married. A few of Marion's interests were participation in 4-H, football and music, including roles in several high school musicals.

Marion received his B.S. in Animal Science at Iowa State University (1960-1964) and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin (Biochemistry; Meat & Animal Science, joint major; 1964-1968). Dr. Greaser held a NIH postdoctoral fellow position (1968-1971) at the Boston Biomedical Research Institute before joining the University of Wisconsin faculty in the Department of Meat and Animal Science in 1971. His appointment was primarily research (80%) along with an instructional role (20%).

Marion met his wife to be, Marilyn, while at Iowa State University. They have a daughter, Suzi Grundahl and a son, Scott, along with 3 grandchildren. Marion has been active and assumed leadership roles in Westwood Christian Church, Madison, WI. Marion has been a passionate Badger fan, enjoying the successes as well as the fine effort of the UW football and basketball athletes. Amazingly even upon retirement he remains very active in playing intramural soccer.

Dr. Greaser completed an impressive 42 years of faculty service in June 2013. He has been the primary instructor for the graduate Muscle Biology 725 course and a co-instructor for the undergraduate Animal Science 305 throughout this period. He has also lectured and supervised laboratories in the Biocore program, and made shorter term contributions to other Animal Science and Food Science courses. He co-authored a widely used undergraduate textbook entitled "*The Meat We Eat*". During his career he supervised 18 postdoctoral or sabbatical fellows, 12 PhD students, 3 MS students, and numerous undergraduates. In addition he has provided extensive mentoring of many other graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the Meat Science/Muscle Biology program.

Dr. Greaser's research program has been a unique blend of fundamental work related to muscle contraction and muscle growth coupled with applied agricultural research in the area of meat science. His early work led to the characterization and naming of the subunits of the protein troponin. Later in his career he made major contributions to understanding the structure and function of the giant protein titin, including a discovery of a mutation in rats that mimics human dilated cardiomyopathy. Affectionately his co-workers named him the "*Titan of Titin*".

Dr. Greaser's research also led to new insights in the meat science area. He and his co-workers were first to show that titin becomes structurally altered in postmortem muscle, and that this alteration contributes to improved meat tenderness. In addition he collaborated in the development of a patented procedure that uses sodium bicarbonate to improve pork meat quality.

His work has resulted in 169 refereed publications, 44 symposium and invited presentations, 14 book chapters, and one textbook. These publications had over 9000 literature citations as of April 2013 (Google Scholar) and his legacy will undoubtedly influence generations to come.

Dr. Greaser received numerous honors including the Distinguished Research Award from the American Meat Science Association, the Meats Research Award from the American Society of Animal Science, and the Outstanding Researcher Award from the American Heart Association of Wisconsin. Dr. Greaser has served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Food Science, the Journal of Muscle Foods, Meat Science, and the Encyclopedia of Animal Science. He also served a 5 year term as the Campbell-Bascom Professor.

Dr. Greaser also served the University of Wisconsin-Madison as Director of the Muscle Biology Laboratory for many years and on numerous university committees.

Dr. Greaser is a stellar professional and a true friend of so many. All of Dr. Greaser's colleagues, students, and other mentees are so very pleased with Professor Marion Lewis Greaser's induction into the Wisconsin Meat Industry Hall of Fame.