

## Lucy B. McCrone, 1923 - 2011

Just before going to press with this issue of *The Microscope*, I received the sad news of the death of my dear friend, colleague and mentor of 23 years, Lucy B. McCrone. McCrone Research Institute's co-founder and matriarch succumbed to complications from pancreatic cancer on February 10. She was 87 years old.

Lucy was the wife of the late Dr. Walter C. McCrone. She was born in 1923 in Buffalo, and received a B.A. in chemistry from Wellesley College in 1945. After graduating, Lucy was hired as an analytical chemist at Arthur D. Little in Cambridge, Mass., where she worked from 1945 to 1957.

In her laboratory, she met Dr. McCrone, who was there on a consulting visit. She fell in love and married him in 1957, and came to Chicago to work as a chemical microscopist for Walter C. McCrone Associates.

In 1960, Lucy and Dr. McCrone founded the McCrone Research Institute (McRI) in Chicago, where she went to work full time after leaving McCrone Associates in 1984. Her passion for the microscope and microscopy education often found her at McRI seven days a week until a few months before her death. Even after being diagnosed with her illness last summer, she routinely visited the Institute, always remaining involved with the not-for-profit teaching and research organization that she affectionately called home for more than 50 years.

Professional microscopists and students alike recognize Lucy as the co-author (together with Dr. McCrone and John G. Delly) of the *Polarized Light Mi-*



*croscopy* course manual, which is widely used today and regarded as the "PLM Bible." She also served as associate editor of *The Microscope* journal. Lucy was a skilled chemist and microscopist, who genuinely cared for her co-workers and students, all of whom she considered her family.

The feeling was mutual. Lucy will always be remembered for her witty sense of humor, generosity and a deep love for *all* living things. She was one of the most gracious and humble human beings I have ever known, and she leaves behind many joyful memories to all who knew her.

At Lucy's request, there was no funeral. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Mrs. Lucy B. McCrone's name to her Scholarship Fund at the McCrone Research Institute, the Jane Goodall Institute or a charitable organization of your choice. Her wish was for us to continue fulfilling her and Dr. McCrone's dream of advancing the microscope and chemical microscopy.

All of us at McRI, and people in the wider microscopy community who knew Lucy, will mourn the end of an era while celebrating her long, accomplished life. She will be dearly missed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary J. Laughlin".

Gary J. Laughlin, Editor