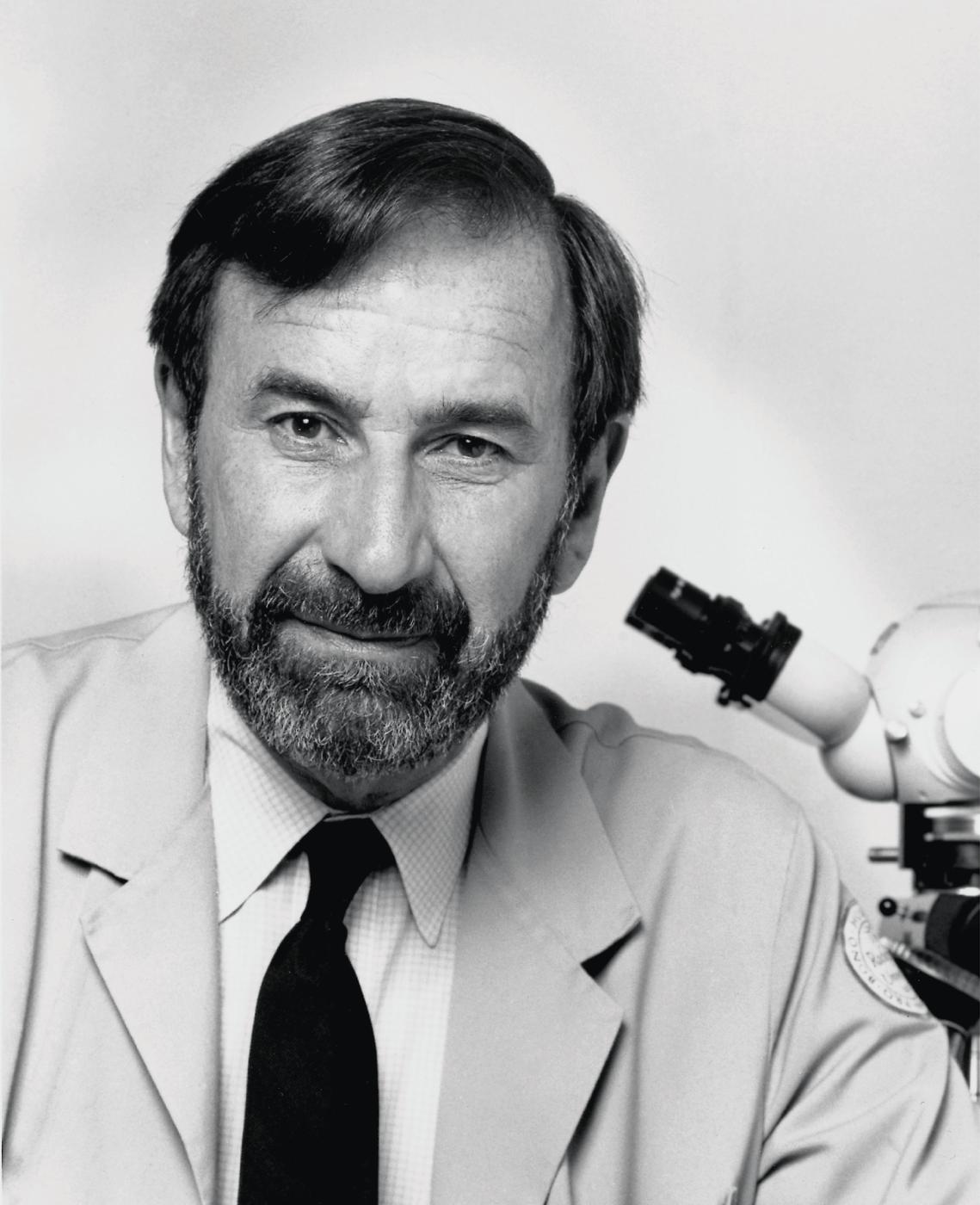


Living Legacies

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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY



Living Legacies

Ensuring Perpetual Support for Scientific Advancements

David J. L. Luck devoted the majority of his career to conducting research at The Rockefeller University. A graduate of The University of Chicago and Harvard Medical School, David completed his internship and residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and served in the U.S. Air Force Medical Service before arriving at Rockefeller in 1958. He would remain at the University for the rest of his career — earning his Ph.D. under the mentorship of Nobel Laureate George Palade, gaining appointment as the Alfred E. Mirsky Professor and head of the Laboratory of Cell Biology, and serving as the University's Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1994 to 1998.

Dr. Luck flourished at Rockefeller, where he conducted pioneering research on mitochondria, the specialized structures within the cell that produce metabolic energy. In the 1960s, he was among the first scientists to discover that mitochondria contain their own DNA, distinct from the DNA found in the cell nucleus. He also demonstrated the presence of a class of ribosomes within the mitochondria that convert the genetic information of this unique DNA into protein. His discoveries have had a lasting impact on the scientific community, helping to reveal the inner world of the cell.

In addition to his major accomplishments as a scientist, Dr. Luck was instrumental, along with Professor James E. Darnell, Jr., in establishing

a tenure-track faculty program at Rockefeller. Prior to this initiative, very few young scientists headed their own laboratories at the University. Beginning in the 1980s, Drs. Luck and Darnell played a key role in recruiting promising early career scientists to campus as University Fellows, independent positions similar to assistant professorships. Many of Rockefeller's eminent scientists initially joined the University through these tenure-track appointments.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Luck was held in high esteem by the Rockefeller campus community as a researcher, mentor, and friend. To quote Professor Darnell, Dr. Luck was “viewed by students and faculty alike as a bastion of quiet strength and gentlemanly wisdom.”

Wanting to provide financial support in perpetuity for the institution he held so dear, Professor Luck named The Rockefeller University as the beneficiary of his TIAA-CREF retirement account. He directed this generous bequest of more than \$3 million to the University's endowment as unrestricted support. His gift continues to make it possible for aspiring young scientists to pursue their academic dreams and research objectives. Long after David Luck's lifetime, his thoughtful gift is helping to ensure that Rockefeller remains at the forefront of biomedical research and scientific advancement.



Living Legacies is a periodic series highlighting benefactors who made the enormously helpful decision to include The Rockefeller University in their estate plans. In sharing what they have done, we hope to honor their dedication, and also to demonstrate how planned gifts can have a transformative impact on biomedical research at Rockefeller.

For more information, please contact:

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