

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
SEYMOUR "GIG" LEVINE
(1925-2007)**

Seymour "Gig" Levine passed away at home in Davis, CA on October 31, 2007 in the presence of his wife and children. He was 82 years old.

Gig was born in New York City of immigrant parents in 1925. He joined the Army in 1943, landed in France on D-Day, and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge.

After earning a PhD in psychology from New York University in 1952, Gig joined the faculty at Ohio State University in the Department of Psychiatry in 1956. He received a Ford Foundation fellowship from 1960-1962 to study hormone releasing factors at the University of London with Geoffrey Harris--the founding father of neuroendocrinology. Gig was then recruited by David Hamburg to join the faculty at Stanford University where he worked in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences until he retired in 1995.

In retirement, Gig served as director of the Neurosciences Program at the University of Delaware from 1995-2000. He subsequently joined the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California, Davis, where he remained until his death.

Gig opened several new and important fields of biomedical research with a seminal series of reports in the 1950s and 1960s. Pioneering work on hormone releasing factors in the Harris lab motivated his initial neuroendocrine studies. He then turned to focus on developmental psychobiology, a sub-discipline of behavioral neuroscience that is practically synonymous with his name.

Gig's research radically changed how we view early experiences and the developmental origins of behavior, health, and disease. He worked on projects ranging from lifelong prenatal and postnatal experience-dependent effects to the evaluation of abnormal neuroendocrine responses in autistic children and cancer patients. He was the first to demonstrate that prenatal and early life experiences had lasting effects on the sensitivity of the hormonal stress-response system to subsequent stressors. He also showed that later in life social support could buffer the adrenal stress response. His papers in journals like Science were notable for their elegance – one hypothesis, one dependent variable.

The breadth and depth of his work is remarkable. Gig wrote or co-authored over 400 papers and received numerous awards and honors, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology.

Gig was a generous and stimulating colleague, enriching the research of many of us at Stanford and around the world with his forceful and far-sighted suggestions.

Gig was a vibrant individual, a devoted opera lover, and lifelong San Francisco (ex-NY) Giants fan. He would have reveled in their World Series victory. He was also an enthusiastic and resilient traveler who relished the experience of different foods, cultures, and lifestyles. Of great importance to him were the international collaborations and projects he fostered, and his mentoring of international students and research fellows.

Gig is survived by his wife of 58 years, Barbara, and their three children, Robert Levine, Leslie McGhie, and Alicia Levine, as well as four grandchildren. A celebration of his life was held November 9, 2007 at the Buehler Alumni Center on the University of California, Davis Campus.

On behalf of a committee consisting of David Lyons, Robert Sapolsky, Alan Schatzberg, and myself, David Spiegel, I have the honor to lay before the Senate of the Academic Council a Resolution in the memory of the late Seymour "Gig" Levine, Professor of Psychiatry Emeritus in the School of Medicine.

Committee:

David Spiegel, Jack, Samuel and Lulu Willson Professor in Medicine, Chair;
David Lyons, Associate Professor (Research) of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences;
Robert Sapolsky, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn Professor and Professor of
Neurology and Neurological Sciences and of Neurosurgery; and
Alan Schatzberg, Kenneth T. Norris, Jr. Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral
Sciences