



Robert John De Leys

September 19, 1949 - May 26, 2023

Robert John De Leys (Bob), 73, passed away May 26, 2023. He was born September 19, 1949 in Buffalo, New York to the late Norman and Anita (Gordon) De Leys.

Robert earned two postdoctoral degrees, one from Leiden, the Netherlands and one from Brussels, Belgium. He was a talented R&D scientist conducting innovative viral research and had several patents and numerous scientific publications to his name. He spent 18 years in Holland and Belgium and then moved to Three Bridges, New Jersey before coming to Sarasota in 2019. Robert's passion was being in the lab. He also enjoyed traveling to many countries, being outdoors, and was an avid reader with a wide range of interests. Bob was sociable and had a strong sense of justice. His sense of humor and hearty laughter will be missed by many.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Jacqueline; sister, Nancy (Wayne) Drew; brothers Philip (Susan) De Leys, and Gordon De Leys, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Memories and condolences may be left online for the family at www.MFHcares.com.

Tribute Wall

CT

“ Bob and I were colleagues and friends at JNJ in NJ. For so many years, as well as his retired time in NJ and later in Florida, we maintained an ongoing message stream. We shared a unique sense of humor, as well as a highly opinionated view of the world situation. :-). I will always remember our hilarious road trips and "business" interactions (which we always agreed were tragic comedies!). I had recently sent Bob new pictures of my new grand daughter, and uncharacteristically there was no reply. :-(Just now I decided to check up, and saw the terrible and unexpected news. RIP Bob. Chuck T.

Chuck T - August 09, 2023 at 12:03 PM

AB

“ Dear family, I would like to express my deepest condolences on the passing of Bob. I was privileged to get to know Bob and to be part of his team at Innogenetics for several years. He was a fine, very intelligent man with a great sense of humor. I cherish the many fine memories of our collaboration. Many thanks Bob, fare well. An

An Van den broecke - June 21, 2023 at 02:46 PM

GJ

“ Dear family of Bob,

I'll never forget meeting our US colleague US when I joined Innogenetics as a young researcher 35 years ago. I am really grateful that I was part of this group of R&D people in Antwerp and had the opportunity to learn from Bob.

Besides the science, I liked his humor, watched him doing a comparative analysis of 'eclairs' from different bakery shops and will remember him as 'Bob from Grimbergen'.

My sincere condolences to Jacqueline and his family.

Geert

Geert Jannes - June 12, 2023 at 08:08 AM

RR

“ Dear family of Bob,
Bob was one of my finest colleagues ever, a friend actually and an example how to do science and pay respect to all other employees.
I had my last e-mail chat in with him in April, everything seemed fine then, although I knew he had been in the hospital before.
That day of the mail it was one of the happiest days in his life since it was the day that Trump has been taken to court: translated quote "I am going to switch on the television now since I do not want to miss a single bit of it..."
Dear Bob, now you don't have to worry anymore about the future of the US. Rest in peace, you deserve it. Sorry that I did not yet had the time to pay you a visit in Florida.
Rudi

Rudi Rossau - June 12, 2023 at 07:26 AM

GH

“ I had the privilege of having Bob as my boss in Innogenetics. Although his knowledge always amazed me, this is not what I will remember most, his humor will. Many memories still put a smile on my face. Even after 20 years his "that was easy" button that I once received as a gift after a successful experiment is still on my desk. Also his knowledge of Dutch in the 'pre-google translate era' was amazing. Therefore: Ha die Bob, ik ga u missen.
Dear Family, Dear Jacqueline, I'm deeply sorry for your loss
Greet Hendrickx

Greet Hendrickx - June 11, 2023 at 06:56 PM

BW

“ Bob was my 'boss' in the late 80's. His scientific knowledge was enormous, as was his humor.
Thanks Bob, it was a pleasure knowing you!
My respects to the family.

Betty Willems - June 07, 2023 at 02:52 AM

CW

“ I had the privilege of working in Bob's team from 86 to 92. To me he was the best scientist ever. Such a knowledge, and a clear - future-oriented - vision of what he wanted to achieve. Resulting in scientifically relevant, and beneficial for the company, accomplishments (HIV antigen capturing test, discovery of a distant variant of HIV1 ..). He also always made sure to give credits to a team member or a colleague who had made a relevant contribution. Beside the work there was always the fun factor, lots of memories of fun actions like having a co-worker incubate and develop a nitrocellulose strip which he had impregnated with a CONFIDENTIAL stamp, testing the smoke detector in the lab by blowing smoke of his pipe into the detector, creating a funny poster of the 2 managers of the company and hanging it in the break room,... . I met Bob for the last time in 2006 in New Jersey, seems like yesterday.

Bob will be missed.

My condolences to his family

Rip Bob

Carlo Wauters - June 06, 2023 at 05:59 AM

EH

“ I met Bob when we were both first-year graduate students at the University of Michigan. His sense of humor made our daily work situation much more palatable. He was a bit irreverent, but he could always make me smile.

Good friends are hard to come by. He will be missed.

Eric Hansen - June 05, 2023 at 01:16 PM

MG

“ Nancy, Phil & Gordy - I was shocked and saddened when Dad told me about Bob. Although I hadn't seen him in forever, we had traded some emails over the last year and he told me some interesting and amusing stories of his time in Hammond as a kid. Here is a direct quote from him that was one of my favorites:

"Gram had a great dog, too. His name was Nicky and I was devastated when he died. That was 1957, I think. Nicky used to eat dry dog food, and it was really quite tasty. Gram kept a big sack of it by the back stairs. I'd fill my pockets with it so I'd have a snack when I was out exploring the barn with Nicky, and I was constantly being frisked by my mom and Gram who would make me empty my pockets."

Sorry for your loss.

Mark Gordon

Mark D Gordon - June 05, 2023 at 09:09 AM

ND

Thank you, Mark! How Bob loved the farm and everyone there.

Nancy De Leys Drew - June 05, 2023 at 09:25 PM

LH

Hi Bob,

How glad I am that I was once a colleague of yours. It was a very nice time in which, besides work, we also had many fun moments, filled with jokes. I still remember your "scientific research" about the éclairs made by the bakers in the Kronenburgstraat area.

After you returned to the US, I also looked forward to your holiday in Belgoland every year to eat something together in the 'Heilig Huisken'.

We will miss you,

Leo

Leo Heyndrickx - June 06, 2023 at 02:41 AM

MH

“ Bobby, this hits very hard... I am incredibly grateful that our paths crossed in what you laughingly called "Belgoland". I will miss our traditional lunches at the "Mythe" and even more your humor and laughter. All those beautiful memories, now silently kept... You weren't the biggest fan of Vivaldi... but I was... so allow me to tease you one last time with "[https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=skQs17wlyKA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skQs17wlyKA)";. Dank je voor alles Bob! Hugs to the family and Jacqueline. -Marleen-

Marleen Vanden Haesevelde - June 05, 2023 at 07:58 AM



“ As a grad school roommate of Bob's for two years, the core of the obituary is right on target: "Bob was sociable and had a strong sense of justice. His sense of humor and hearty laughter will be missed by many." Count me among those who will miss him very much, but are glad to have had the chance to know him well. Hugs to his siblings (though we've never met) and his wife Jacqueline (whom I have met). ...Bob (yes, we were "The Bobs") Blumenthal

Robert Blumenthal - June 03, 2023 at 11:21 PM

PL

I ditto what Bob Blumenthal said. I kept in contact with him even after he moved to FL and always appreciated his "brand" of humor. Rest in peace, my friend. Peggy G. Lemaux

Peggy Lemaux - June 04, 2023 at 02:02 AM

PH

Bob and I have known each other since we were kids in elementary school. He had a great sense of humor. Always made me laugh. After each of his many trips back to Belgium I would receive from him a huge box filled with dark chocolate, for medicinal purposes, as he put it. We continued to correspond through email until his death. He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, my friend.

Paul Haag

Paul E. Haag - June 05, 2023 at 02:24 PM

GE

*Bob,
Although the time we worked together at Innx was not so long and we did not worked in one and the same team I will never forget you. Your kindness and your humor. You was a very special person that I never forget. I will treasure all the good memories of you. Thank you for being you and let me making a part of your live. I will miss you.*

Geertrui - June 09, 2023 at 01:48 AM

GM

There are no suitable words for this. I will always remember the funny anecdotes, especially in the years of Kronenburg Street, where I think there was even a hamburger named after him in one of the local sandwich stores which he frequented! Goodbye Bob and strength to the whole family.

Guy Mersch - June 30, 2023 at 11:50 AM

CB

*Bob,
My husband Ron & I enjoyed working with you in R&D at Ortho Clinical Diagnostics for many years.
Your technical expertise and willingness to share your knowledge w/me was priceless to my advancement, and for that, I will always be appreciative.
However much to my dismay, you made a poor mentor & example because you were a smoker and try as I might to help my husband give up cigarette smoking forever, you were a poor influence!!! But we loved anyway!!!*

Catherine Benoit - July 25, 2023 at 04:30 PM

EV

Dear Bob, there are two certainties in life: birth and passing away. Your passing is much too early. Nevertheless I will keep our memories alive. Many thanks for sharing science, humor and "business". My deepest sympathy to the close family and Jacqueline.

Eugeen

Eugeen Vanmechelen - August 21, 2023 at 01:27 PM