



September 19, 2023

Bernd Kahn, August 16, 1928 – July 13, 2023 In Memoriam



Bernd Kahn passed away on July 13, 2023. He was a radiochemist and health physicist; specializing in developing radioanalytical methods to measure environmental radionuclides at low levels and in applying them in the design and operation of environmental radiation monitoring programs.

He was associate director, Environmental Radiation Laboratory, Electro-Optical Systems Laboratory, Georgia Tech Research Institute, and professor emeritus, Nuclear and Radiological Engineering Program, Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT). His research was in radiation detection and spectroscopy aspects of scintillating nanoparticles within a glass matrix.

Dr. Kahn graduated from the Newark College of Engineering (BS Chemical Engineering 1950), Vanderbilt University (MS Physics 1952), and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (PhD Chemistry 1960). He was employed by the Oak Ridge Nuclear Laboratory (1951 to 1954) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1970 to 1974) and enrolled in the U.S. Public Health Service (1954 to 1974), from which he retired with rank of Captain. He taught, supervised graduate students, and performed research at GIT (1974 to 2023).

Dr. Kahn was a member of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) from 1979 to 1997 and was elected a Distinguished Emeritus Member in 1997. He chaired scientific committees: (SC) 64-5 which published *Public Radiation Exposure from Nuclear Power Generation in the United States* (NCRP Report No. 92) and SC 64-22, *Design of Effective Radiological Effluent Monitoring and Environmental Surveillance Programs* (NCRP Report No. 169).

He was a member of several NCRP scientific committees including SC 18A (Report No. 58, *A Handbook of Radioactivity Measurements Procedures*), SC 30 (Report No. 60, *Physical, Chemical, and Biological Properties of Radiocerium Relevant to Radiation Protection Guidelines*), SC 35 (Report No. 50, *Environmental Radiation Measurements*), SC 38 (Waste Disposal), SC 41 (Radiation Resulting from Nuclear Power Generation), SC 63-1 (Public Knowledge), SC 64 (Environmental Issues), and SC 64-15 (Critique of the Publication “Living Without Landfills”). Dr Kahn was a member of the 1982, 1983 and 2001 Annual Meeting Program Committees on “Radiation Protection and New Medical Diagnostic Approaches,” “Environmental Radioactivity,” and “Fallout from Atmospheric Nuclear Tests—Impact on Science and Society,” respectively.

He is survived by his wife, Gail Pressman, who he married in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1961; his daughter, Jennifer; granddaughters, Erica and Brynn Finney; daughter, Elizabeth (Seth); and grandson, Jordan Hyman, all of Atlanta. He was a wonderful scientist, but he was also a kind and warm individual who was very easy and fun to be around. He will be missed.