



## Earl James Mason, Jr., MD, PhD

August 26, 1923 - November 2, 2011

EARL JAMES MASON, Jr., PH.D., M.D.

OGDEN DUNES, IN

Earl James Mason Jr., Ph.D., M.D., age 88, of Ogden Dunes, IN and Palm Springs, CA passed away on November 2, 2011 at Regency Hospital from complications following heart surgery. He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Eileen "Penny" (nee Gursansky); beloved children, daughter, Jane (Richard) Adamson of Temple Terrace, FL and son, Warren Mason of Brandon, FL; four cherished grandchildren: Scott Adamson of NYC, Kathryn Adamson of Denver, CO, Grace Adamson of Wash., DC and Justin (Jessica) Mason of Cleveland, OH,; dearly loved mother-in-law, Irene Gursansky (La Jolla, CA) and brothers-in-law Gilbert Gursansky (Boise, ID) and Frank Gursansky (San Diego, CA) He was preceded in death by his father, Earl Sr., mother, Grace (Leer), brother, Richard L. Mason, M.D. and sister-in-law, Ruth Mason of Hammond, IN.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 2:00- 6:00 PM at Burns Funeral Home, 701 E. 7TH St., Hobart, IN with a Memorial Service at 6:00 PM. Rev. Mark Atkinson officiating.

Earl was born on August 26, 1923 in Marion, IN. After two undergraduate degrees at Indiana University in 1944 and 1946, (AB and BS) Dr. Mason

obtained a MA degree in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry in 1947. A Ph.D. degree in Microbiology, specializing in medical microbiology and immunology, was awarded from Ohio State University in 1950. Dr. Mason then attended Western Reserve University, School of Medicine and graduated in 1954. During his college years, Dr. Mason held various posts in teaching and in research and published scientific articles, mainly regarding the interaction between viruses and cancer cells. He was also a Crile Research Scholar at Western Reserve from 1951-1954. After graduation, for two years Dr. Mason continued in research as a Damon Runyon Cancer Fellow at the Institute of Pathology of Western Reserve and also began residency training in pathology. He reentered government service as a Senior Assistant Surgeon in the Public Health Service at their San Francisco Hospital as Deputy Chief, Pathology Service, at that hospital. Two years later he transferred to the University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston, where he finished formal training as an anatomic pathologist in 1959.

Dr. Mason then took a position as Assistant Professor of Pathology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Following almost two years of teaching and research in the virus-cancer cell field, he moved to Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, for a year as an Assistant pathologist under the late Dr. Otto Saphir. There he gathered extensive experience in surgical pathology and supervision of residency training in their department at Michael Reese.

Next, Dr. Mason took a position as Associate Director of Laboratories at Mercy Hospital, Chicago, in 1961. There, along with Dr. George Changus, one of the \"legends\" of Chicago pathologists, Dr. Mason participated in an all-around hospital pathology service which included nuclear medicine and extensive clinical pathology. He continued teaching and limited research and was also appointed as Chairman of the Department of Biological Science at Mercy Hospital. He became Director of Laboratories and Nuclear Medicine at St. Mary Mercy Hospital (now St. Mary Medical Center, Hobart, IN), July, 1965. As a solo pathologist in that institution for almost one and a half, years, Dr. Mason began enlarging the laboratory and adding additional programs to

make it one of the premier laboratories in this area. It was among the first laboratories to be accredited by the College of American Pathologists (1966). An Associate Pathologist was added in 1967 and a full Staff of four Associate Pathologists and three Ph.D. clinical scientists were finally obtained in the 70's as the hospital opened an extension in Hobart. The consolidated laboratory expanded to a complement of 175 employees. A residency program for pathologists was begun in 1968 and 15 pathologists were trained and certified in anatomic and clinical pathology until its close in 1983. An A.S.C.P. School of Medical Technology was also formed in 1967. There have been approximately 160 certified medical technologists graduated from the school. In addition to serving St. Mary, these graduates have disseminated to area hospitals in which some have assumed important leadership roles. In addition to serving as Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology at Chicago Medical School from 1965 until 1983, Dr. Mason was a Clinical Professor of Pathology at Indiana University School of Medicine, Northwest. His lectures cover the topics of immunology and autoimmune diseases, endocrine pathology and dermatopathology. Consistent with high continuing education standards within the department, Dr. Mason added board certification in the specialty of Dermatopathology to his credentials in 1977.

Dr. Mason became familiar with nuclear medicine in its early years and organized this specialty as a separate department at St. Mary Medical Center in 1972. He became board certified in Nuclear Medicine in 1976 and continued to advance both his interest and qualifications for the clinical use of radioisotopes by obtaining additional board certification in Radioisotopic Pathology.

Also, approximately 35 scientific articles, principally in the fields of clinical chemistry, microbiology and pathology were published by members of the clinical laboratory under his direction.

## Membership in Professional Societies

College of American Pathologists American Society of Clinical Pathologists  
(Fellow)

American Association of Pathologists (Fellow)

American Association for Cancer Research

American Society of Hematology

American Society of Cytology

International Academy of Cytology

American Academy of Dermatopathology (Fellow)

American Academy of Dermatology (Associate)

Society of Nuclear Medicine

American College of Nuclear Physicians

Sigma Xi (Western Reserve Chapter)

American Medical Association

Dr. Mason was well-known for his lifelong love of jazz music and played his trumpet daily. He was an enthusiastic member of a jazz group known as “The Gashouse Gang” first organized by Bob Gasser, President of then Gainer Bank. Their free concerts were enjoyed at many nursing homes and community events throughout the years. He also enjoyed playing bridge and had great fondness for his loyal Bichon, Jazzy.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Earl’s memory to:  
Valparaiso University Dept. of Music – Jazz Studies.

Attn: Jeffrey C. Brown

1709 Chapel Drive

Valparaiso, IN 46383

Friends and family may share an online condolence or memory at:

[www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)





“ I want to send my condolences from myself and my wife Lola Rossi to Penny and Dr. Mason's family. We were greatly saddened to hear the news of his passing however, I'm comforted in knowing that Gabriel has another wonderful trumpet player in heaven to jam with. He loved music very much of course and was always supporting local musicians like myself by attending events, giving much appreciated support and getting on stage to grace our stages with his trumpet playing. He and Penny were major contributors of the Dixieland Jazz Society of the Desert and his charity knew no bounds. I considered Earl to be a good friend and his kindness and humor will be greatly missed in this valley.##imported-begin##Johnny Meza##imported-end##

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November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ We will miss Earl's cheerful greetings and smiles. One of the sweetest neighbors we will ever know! Wishing Penny and family the comfort of memories having been blessed with such a dear, generous, kind soul in your lives. We are truly saddened by your loss. Eileen and Marv Stern##imported-begin##Eileen and Marv Stern##imported-end##

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November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Jan and I knew Earl only in the last few years as a neighbor and friend in Palm Springs. Nonetheless, he made a big impression on us that we will never forget. He loved life, friends, medicine, and music and made the most of his time and talent. We will certainly miss him.##imported-begin##David W. Duffner MD##imported-end##

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November 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Hello Penny,  
My goodness it has been a long time since we heard your name!  
We are so very sorry for your loss. We remember what good friends  
your mother and Lillian had been and didn't want to miss the  
opportunity of sending our condolences.  
Please, give our warm wishes to your Mom also.  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph V. Stodola III##imported-begin##Joe and  
Joyce Stodola##imported-end##

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November 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle Earl,  
  
I will miss you very much. I have so many memories of you and  
Penny that will always make me smile. You will always be my crazy  
uncle Earl that would shoot rockets indoors and be the life of the  
party.  
  
Much Love from the Buschangs##imported-begin##Katherine and  
Matthias Buschang##imported-end##

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November 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our lives were enriched because we knew Earl and he was part of our lives. His love of jazz gave us all so much joy. His contributions to medicine have been meaningful and we will always appreciate his lack of pretense over his many distinguished accomplishments. His friends will miss Earl and he will remain in our hearts.*

*Love,*

*Gloria##imported-begin##Gloria Greer##imported-end##*

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November 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Penny,*

*Joe and I are heartbroken that we will never enjoy the sweet sight of Earl and Jazzy (1 and 2) spinning around our neighborhood. His delightful smile and personality will stay with us for many years to come. We loved him very much. What a wonderful man!!*

*With sadness and love,*

*Joe and Eileen##imported-begin##Joe and Eileen Fitzpatrick##imported-end##*

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November 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest Dr. Mason,

*I know you will light the heavens with your laughter and your smile. We will miss you surely but we will always remember your kindness.##imported-begin##Maria Holmes##imported-end##*

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November 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Earl Dear ---

*You and Gabriel are going to have a fun time -- especially with Heaven\\\'s very own Jazz Band.*

*We all love you and will miss you --- but know, for sure, we\\\'ll be together again when the good Lord calls us. Is there room for a \\\'singer\\\' with your Jazz Band?*

*Know that I will always be here for your beautiful Penny. You couldn\\\'t have chosen a more wonderful life partner --- and she - YOU!!!*

*Happy Harmony in Heaven.*

*Love, Love, Love\\\'Ya.*

*Peggy and \\\'the Chevalier\\\' Sir Donald.##imported-begin##Peggy and Don Cravens##imported-end##*

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November 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM