



John D. Frame, MD

John D. Frame, MD, a former member of the Division of Tropical Medicine at the Mailman School of Public Health, recently passed away at the age of 90. He retired in 1991 as an adjunct clinical professor emeritus after more than 25 years of service to Columbia University.

Dr. Frame was born in 1917 in Rasht, Iran, where his father was a protestant missionary and chief physician at the American Hospital. Following his graduation from the medical school of Northwestern University in 1943, Dr. Frame served as a physician in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II and subsequently worked with several medical missionary societies that involved travel to Africa.

He became an expert practitioner of tropical medicine and is internationally known as the co-discoverer of a new viral disease, Lassa fever, which emerged in West Africa in the late 1960s. A documentary film about this discovery was broadcast on PBS in the Nova science series.

At the Mailman School, Dr. Frame taught several courses, including Parasitic Diseases and International Health for MPH students, and Parasitic Diseases for second year medical students. He also directed Medicine in the Tropics, an elective course for fourth year medical students who acquired first-hand experience working in clinics and hospitals in tropical countries. His extensive practical knowledge, medical experience, and compassion were recognized, respected, and appreciated by students and faculty alike and benefited all who knew him.

Dr. Frame was also a member of the medical faculty of the Department of Medicine at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Medical Center, medical director of the National Council of Churches of Christ, a past president of the New York Society of Tropical Medicine, and he maintained a private medical practice.