



**DAVID B. FINKELSTEIN, Ph.D.**

December 12, 1945 – May 28, 2022

Many of us remember David Finkelstein when he was Program Administrator in the Biology of Aging Program at the National Institute on Aging. David received his Ph.D. from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine for work demonstrating that eukaryotic chromosomes consist of single DNA duplexes. He then conducted postdoctoral research in yeast molecular biology with Dr. Ron Butow at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas Texas. David continued as a faculty member in the Department of Biochemistry at UT Southwestern where his research group investigated gene regulation in yeast with a focus on different mating types and the heat shock response. In 1984, David left Southwestern to become Scientific Director of the US Laboratories of Panlabs, Inc, in Seattle, Washington where he directed research in the areas of molecular biology, industrial fermentation development, and new drug discovery. He was also responsible for new technology evaluation.

In 1992, David joined NIA as Program Administrator in the Biology of Aging Program where he administered a portfolio of research grants in cardiovascular aging, metabolic regulation, oxidative damage, and mitochondrial dysfunction. He was responsible for the development of NIA's pilot project program. After 22 years at NIA, David retired and moved to Seattle, Washington to be near his daughter.

David was a larger-than-life personality as Felipe Sierra noted at his retirement party in 2015 when he shared anecdotes from several grantees. Ana Maria Cuervo remembered her first meeting with him as, "I was not expecting somebody three times my size, with such a strong potent voice, screaming at me that I was speaking too fast. That was quite a scary image for a young awardee!" Holly Brown-Borg, also remembers that she was "was nervous because he was tall, he had a booming voice AND he was my program officer." Arlan Richardson noted his honesty and blunt style, that "was always an eye-opening experience for young investigators just beginning their professional careers — A WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD." However, after the first shock, everybody understood that, as Gino Cortopassi said, "He is like a prickly pear cactus, tough on the outside, but sweet on the inside." Or as Ana Maria noted, "I realized back then that his dedication to help junior investigators was much bigger than his big leather belt or his big, large mustache." Andy Bartke remembered David as always "patient when I needed a shoulder to cry upon." David also loved to give grantsmanship advice to new investigators, and his entertaining lectures on that topic were insightful, funny, and definitely worth sitting through several times. He left his own inimitable mark on the field. He will be missed by all who knew him.