

In Memoriam – Lee W. Riley (1949-2022)



It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of long-term CEND faculty **Prof. Lee W. Riley**. Undoubtedly influenced by the trajectory of his personal life, Lee has always been a global citizen and polyglot - his research transcended borders and continents, and always included a focus on the disenfranchised. Lee was born Hiroshi Satoyoshi and spent his first ten years with his mother in Yokohama, Japan, then lived for a short time in a Japanese orphanage before being adopted by the Riley family and moving to the Tokyo area, Japan. In Riley's early years his Japanese, schoolteacher grandfather had a great influence on his schooling, encouraging his questioning nature. In time for high school, the family moved to Bangkok, Thailand, where Lee had several influential teachers who stimulated his early interest in physics. Riley's perspectives on life were impacted by living in post-WWII Japan, and by his Buddhist and multiethnic heritage.

Riley decided to attend Stanford University with the goal to become a physician and practice medicine in Bangkok and obtained his medical degree in 1978 from UCSF. During his first year of medical school, he undertook a clinical rotation in a missionary hospital in Thailand. After deciding to shift from clinical medicine to public health, he completed his internship and residency at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He found interesting the differences between the types of medical conditions encountered in New York and those encountered in Thailand, and he entered the Epidemiologic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and prevention, where he used enteric pathogen fingerprinting technology to identify strains of Salmonella and identified E. coli 0157:H7 as the cause of an outbreak in Oregon.

Riley then accepted a postdoc in the Gary Schoolnik lab at Stanford to study enteropathogenic E. coli using molecular biology technology. Next, he studied tuberculosis (TB) for two years in India and published a paper in *Science* identifying the invasion gene for TB. He then proceeded to an assistant professorship at Cornell University Medical College, where he worked on devising a technique to identify primary and reactivation TB. Through his understanding of the molecular basis for disease transmission he identified why a high percentage of drug users in New York City had a particular strain of tuberculosis. Riley's interest in approaching biological questions from the standpoint of public health led him to work on developing a Salmonella vaccine for chickens.

In 1996, Riley accepted a position as professor of infectious disease and epidemiology at University of California, Berkeley, and became Director of the Fogarty International Center Global Health Equity Scholars Program, where he worked on TB pathogenesis, drug-resistant Gram-negative bacterial infections, and global health focusing on infectious diseases of urban slums. He was a fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology and of the Infectious Disease Society of America and a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Infectious Disease of the CDC. He worked on international projects in many countries, including Mexico, India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Brazil, Colombia, Romania, China, Japan, and Thailand. Lee has published >280 peer-reviewed papers to date and two books (Molecular Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases: Principles and Practices; co-edited with Jason Corburn: Slum Health: From The Cell To The Street).

Lee will be missed by the UCB and larger public health community, and colleagues here at CEND. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and children. In Dr. Lee Riley's memory, a photo gallery has been established here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/riWyVN3FhMyATj6p8>