



Linda Cook

November 29, 1953 - August 14, 2020

Linda's Obituary

Linda Cook was born in Ogden, Utah, on November 29, 1953, to William R. Cook and Marilyn Joyce Denning. She was the third of five children. In 1955, her father took a job at the Atomic Energy Commission testing site in Arco, Idaho, and the family moved and took residence in Idaho Falls, Idaho, where she grew up.

Linda spent happy years as a child and as a teenager growing and attending schools on the west side of Idaho Falls--Temple View Elementary, Central Junior High, and eventually graduated from Skyline High School in 1972 where she was active in sports programs and drill team. After graduation, she moved to Provo, Utah, and attended Brigham Young University where she played on the university's women's basketball and field hockey teams and received a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Medical Technology in 1976. After receiving her undergraduate degree, she completed an internship at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake and accepted work as a medical technologist in the blood bank at St. Marks Hospital. After a few years, she followed her family to Naperville, Illinois. She was accepted to the graduate program at University Illinois at Chicago in 1978, graduating in 1985 with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Immunology, studying clinical microbiology and immunology. She received and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical immunology at the University of North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Linda was very influential in her field of study as an immunologist. She moved to the Boston area of New England and worked as a clinical instructor in pathology at the New England Deaconess Hospital and at Harvard University in the clinical pathology residency program, teaching immunology, microbiology, and infectious disease courses for the medical school. Linda became the section head in the clinical immunology lab at Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA, in 1986 and worked there for 13 years.

In 2001, she moved across the country when she was hired as the Associate Director of the molecular virology laboratory at the University of Washington and concurrently as a faculty associate and research scientist in the vaccine and infectious disease division at the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center. During her time as a director and as a research scientist, she was a popular speaker and consultant in her field. She is listed as an author on more than 50 research papers and more than a dozen textbooks reflect chapters authored by her. She is listed as a co-author of many abstracts and posters and was active in many professional organizations where she served in leadership positions. Her main areas of interest were autoimmune disease, autoantibodies, infectious disease effects on transplants, and molecular

diagnosis, but her research also included hepatitis B, fetal medicine, and stem cell technology projects. She retired in March of 2020.

Linda was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She had a firm, unwavering, and dedicated testimony of the Savior Jesus Christ and strove daily to live by inspiration as His disciple in her choices, activities, and interactions with others. She served in many callings in her church throughout her life. It seemed she was always involved with the youth—teaching, leading, and providing quality interaction with them, including working with refugee youth from Cambodia and Laos in Boston. She participated in outdoor activities and spent many hours camping or engaged in her favorite physical pastimes with church members. She also worked in callings in the Church's women's organization. She served many years completing genealogy and temple work and loved to help others do the same. She loved to speak and share her testimony and her Christian values defined her life. She was greatly loved and all who knew her were changed for good by her positive outlook and influence.

Linda loved outdoor activities wherever she lived and was actively involved in camping, swimming, boating, water-skiing, hiking, kayaking, and traveling to experience the beauty and diversity of nature and cultures. She loved visiting state and national parks and historic sites in the United States and in her international travels. She loved her family and took every opportunity to travel with them and to attend family events, focusing on each individual in their turn.

Linda struggled with digestive tract issues all her life, which doctors found difficult to diagnose. After two years of debilitating illness and an eventual diagnosis in October of 2019 of a rare form of stomach cancer, cancer took her life on August 14, 2020.

Some quotes from AMLI Members and Friends

If you would like to send a comment, please direct to maggie@maggiefogel.com

What a great gal. She was so full of life and desired to share all she had. Made a tremendous contribution to each of us and AMLI. We are all better by having known and worked with her. I am so sorry to hear of her passing. Thanks for letting me know.

Gerry Miller

Linda's unwavering enthusiasm for AMLI and her years of involvement in our association is an inspiration to us all"

Vijaya Knight

This is indeed very sad news. Linda was a very strong supporter of the AMLI and the field of Clinical Immunology in general.

Maurice (Mo) O'Gorman

I would like to join in and say how saddened I was to learn of Linda Cook's passing today. Linda was a warm and caring friend and colleague. Linda was the kind of person who always wanted to help. Her dedication to medical laboratory immunology was outstanding. She gave generously to the discipline. She truly had the spirit and commitment to keep AMLI on the right track. Whether her contributions were to AMLI, ABMLI or to the Molecular and Clinical Laboratory Immunology manual—Linda willingly shared her time and expertise with us.

She was also deeply fond of her family, immunology colleagues and the youth she so often spoke about. Her friendship was important to me and many of us certainly will miss Linda.

As Alexander Pope said, "In every friend we lose a part of ourselves, and the best part."

Barbara Detrick

Linda taught myself, and countless other clinical microbiology fellows at the University of Washington, everything I know about molecular virology. Her passing is a huge loss to our field.

Linda never had a bad word to say about anybody, she was so giving of her time to us trainees, she was so patient, so kind and sharp as a nail. I have truly fond memories of my time training with her and feel incredibly blessed to have been trained by the best in the business.

Ar dheis Dé do raibh a anam.

Susan Butler-Wu

This is indeed sad and unexpected news about Linda, a true friend and colleague to all of us.

Wayne Hogrefe

Linda was a resourceful scientist who became a technical expert in each subdiscipline as clinical immunology evolved from studies in individual test tubes to microtiter plates to the most advanced automated molecular sequencing techniques. Always willing to serve the field, even in the sometimes thankless work of teaching, committee service, and laboratory inspections. I will miss her. My deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

Irene Check