OBITUARY

Martin Sevoian, V.M.D.

Dr. Martin Sevoian, 86, died on September 14, 2005. He was a longtime member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists and contributed immensely to the field of avian tumor viruses. His discovery of methods for the regular experimental transmission of Marek’s disease through the use of genetically susceptible chickens and whole-cell inocula was of major importance in laying the groundwork for, and opening the floodgates to, research on this disease by many researchers worldwide. His “JM” strain of Marek’s disease virus was, for many years, the virus of choice for most scientists studying MD. He also contributed very significantly to our understanding of other tumor viruses. For his pioneering work, as well as his many other subsequent studies, the field of avian medicine is much indebted. Martin graduated with a V.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and earned a master’s degree from Cornell before moving to the position of Professor of Veterinary Science at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, where he spent his entire professional career until his retirement in 1997. He was a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Microbiology. Martin is survived by his wife of 51 years, Lucile; a daughter, Janna; a son, James; and four grandchildren.