

Frederick King, PhD, who served as director of the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University, from 1978 until 1994, passed away Sunday evening, May 19.

Under King's leadership, the Yerkes Research Center experienced remarkable growth in its scientific programs as well as its collaborations with international scientists. He built a strong program in HIV/AIDS research that remains a leader in the field today, and he paid particular attention to fostering the career growth of young scientific investigators. In addition, it was under King's leadership that the center started transitioning from a regional primate research center to a national resource, began reviewing each research protocol for scientific merit and appropriate use of animals, and received for the first time full accreditation from the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, an accreditation the center has maintained for more than 25 consecutive years.

During his time as director, King also served as a professor of neuroscience at Yerkes, professor of anatomy and cell biology and associate dean of the Emory University School of Medicine, and adjunct professor in the Department of Psychology in Emory's College of Arts and Sciences.

These roles speak to his interests in wide-ranging areas. King studied brain mechanisms and behavior, human and animal epilepsy, and tropical medicine and parasitology. His main focus was the interaction between cognitive and limbic functions, such as eating, drinking, and emotion. He was the co-discoverer of Zeman-King syndrome, a neurological and behavioral syndrome in humans that occurs during growth of cerebral tumors in certain deep structures of the forebrain. He published in the fields of neuroscience, behavior, and primatology and served on editorial boards of scientific journals and books, as well as on major committees of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation, and the National Academy of Science. Both the NIH and the American Medical Association commended King for his research and his humane care of animals in research.

"King's goals as director were to make the research center an integral part of the sciences at Emory and a premier research center in the United States," said current Yerkes director Stuart Zola, PhD. "I am appreciative of his vision and his dedication to research with animals as well as the expert care of them, all of which helped shape the Yerkes National Primate Research Center of today. Science has lost a great supporter of improving human and animal health."

Dr. King is survived by his wife, Dr. Sally Wolff King; his daughter, Dr. Elizabeth G. King; his son, Alexander K. King; and nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers the family requests contributions to [African Wildlife Foundation](#) or the [Brain Injury Association of America](#).