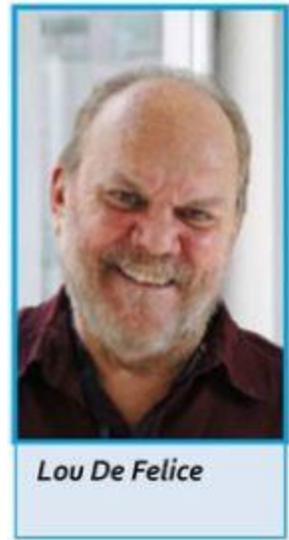


Tribute to Dr. Louis DeFelice.

On behalf of the ITT Society it is our sad duty to express our heartfelt tribute to Louis (Lou) J. De Felice, Ph.D., who passed away on November 14th, 2016. Dr. De Felice was a brilliant scientist, a wonderful mentor, and a man of deep compassion and kindness. Dr. De Felice received his B.A. and Master's degrees in Physics at Florida State University and his Ph.D. in Physics in 1967 from the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada under the mentorship of Cyril Challice. After completing postdoctoral training in the laboratories of Dr. David Firth at McGill University in Montreal and Dr. Bert Verveen at the University of Leiden, in The Netherlands, Dr. De Felice joined the faculty at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA in 1971. He moved to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN in 1996 and then joined the faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in 2008.



Lou was the recipient of many awards, including the John H. Exton Award for Excellence in Research, the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Outstanding Mentor Award in 2012, the Emily Gray Award from the Biophysical Society in 2013, and numerous awards and recognitions during his Tenure at Emory University. "He was a dedicated and clear-thinking scientist who always went out of his way to help students and devoted a great deal of energy to training the next generation," said Clive Baumgarten, Ph.D., professor and interim chair, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, VCU School of Medicine. Scott Ramsey one of Lou's mentees summarized the shared view that "Lou was ahead of his time in recognizing that neurotransmitter transporters exhibit properties that are strikingly similar to ion channels. Transporters and channels had previously been thought to utilize distinctly different mechanisms to mediate the movement of ions such as sodium and potassium across cell membranes. Lou recognized that the underlying biophysical principles of transmembrane ion flux were likely similar,"

Besides being an outstanding scientist, Lou was an artist, poet a dedicated mentor and a dear friend to many. Lou's contagious passion for life and science has guided many of his trainees, friends and colleagues. Lou was a man who loved and nourished people around him and encouraged them to live fully and believe in the beauty of science and unexpected discoveries. The research community, multitudes of his former students, post-docs and young faculty whom he mentored will keenly miss him.