Editorial: In Memory of Remi J. Cadoret

This issue includes a Special Section dedicated to the memory of Remi J. Cadoret, who passed away November 12, 2005. Remi was a giant in the field of gene-environment interactions and substance use, and only now are his contributions fully coming to light. He pioneered the concept of gene-environment interactions, realizing many years ago that genes do not operate in a vacuum, but that their expression is shaped by the environment. Beyond his scholarly achievements, Remi was a fine clinician and teacher. I was fortunate to have trained at Iowa, and I worked closely with him during my residency, closely observing his skilled interactions with patients. Remi must have been the least affected academic psychiatrist I have met. Despite his Ivy League education, he dressed like a farmer, had a myriad of interests beyond work, and led a well-balanced life. Few people apart from his colleagues would have guessed that this humble man would have possessed such a great intellect and contributed so much to the scientific world.

A celebration was held in Remi’s honor on November 16, 2005. The Festschrift was entitled “Future Directions in Biological Psychiatry: Gene-environment Interaction.” Featured speakers included Andrew Heath, Wendy Slutske, Kathleen Bucholz, Janae Niederhiser, Douglas Langbehn, Danielle Dick, and Robert Philibert. The Special Section features papers by Danielle Dick, Robert Philibert, and Tracy Gunter, all highlighting the ramifications of Remi’s work. An essay that Remi wrote in his last days is included describing his interest in paranormal phenomena and alternative medicine, interests that will come as a surprise to many, though not to those who knew him.