



David L. Rimoin, MD, PhD, FACMG

Legacy

Dr. Rimoin's primary areas of research focused on medical genetics, particularly short stature and the skeletal dysplasias, a group of disorders associated with abnormalities in the size and shape of the limbs, trunk and/or skull and heritable disorders of connective tissue. He was Director of the International Skeletal Dysplasia Registry, the largest such registry in the world. In 1997, Dr. Rimoin received the March of Dimes Colonel Harland Sanders Award for Lifetime Achievement in Genetic Sciences for his work explaining the genetic basis for skeletal dysplasias. He served as a member of the March of Dimes Advisory Committee on Genetic Services and the Advisory Panel for Basil O'Connor Research Program.

Through his early research, Dr. Rimoin also showed that diabetes mellitus was the result of the interaction of multiple genetic variants, laying the foundation for the field of common disease genetics.

In 1970, Dr. Rimoin recruited Dr. Michael Kaback to Harbor-UCLA. Dr. Kaback developed enzymatic screening for the deadly disease Tay-Sachs, a hereditary disease most common among Ashkenazi Jews. Together, Rimoin and Kaback instituted Tay-Sachs screening first in California, then throughout the country, and the incidence of Tay-Sachs has been reduced by 90 percent. Among his many initiatives, Dr. Rimoin launched and directed the Cedars-Sinai Persian Jewish Genetics Screening Program in 2009, focusing on detecting genetic diseases in that community, which numbers some 20,000 in the Los Angeles area.

Dr. Rimoin mentored and trained more than 150 MD, PhD, or MD-PhD pre- and postdoctoral students, the great majority of whom have gone on to academic and clinical success throughout the world, leaving a legacy that may remain unmatched in medical genetics and genomics.

A prolific writer, he published over 440 peer-reviewed manuscripts and was finalizing the sixth edition of his book, *Emery and Rimoin's Principles and Practices of Medical Genetics*, first published in 1983 and still used in classrooms today.

Dr. Rimoin was the Founding President of the American College of Medical Genetics (now the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics) and the American Board of Medical Genetics. In addition, he served as President of the ACMG Foundation (now the ACMG Foundation for Genetic and Genomic Medicine), the American Society of Human Genetics, the Western Society for Pediatric Research and the Western Society for Clinical Research.

Dr. Rimoin's global contributions have been honored with his election to the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars in 1990, membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1992 and election to Fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1997. He is also an Honorary Life Member of Little People of America.