

The 1996 Ralph and Helen Oesper Awardee

Honoring

Ralph N. Adams



Professor Ralph N. Adams was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, August 26, 1924. He received a BS degree in Chemistry from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1950, following four years service as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. He then attended Princeton University where he worked under the direction of the late Professor N. Howell Furman, receiving a PhD degree in Chemistry in 1953. He remained on the faculty at Princeton from 1953-55.

Professor Adams joined the staff of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Kansas in 1955. His research interests until 1969 centered on electro-oxidations at solid electrodes and the mechanisms of organic electrode reactions. In 1964 he was a J. S. Guggenheim Fellow in Zurich, Switzerland, doing research in EPR-electrochemistry at Varian AG and the ETH.

In 1969, the research interests of his laboratory shifted to applying electrochemistry to the problems of the neurosciences. Adams spent a sabbatical leave in the Department of Psychobiology, University of California, Irvine, in 1970, where he received fundamental training in neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, etc. He spent 3 years (1972-75) as an interdisciplinary scholar in the Resident Psychiatry Program at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas. Since the 1970's research in Adams' laboratory centered on applications of electroanalytical methods to the neurosciences and neurochemical studies of schizophrenia. Although he formally retired in 1992, the schizophrenia and human brain chemistry research continues in a small laboratory maintained primarily by an exceptionally generous fund generated by his former graduate students and co-workers and the kind understanding of his wife Gini.

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