

Remembering Mort Arditti



The USC Ginsburg Institute for Biomedical Therapeutics (IBT) recently named the Mordechai “**Mort**” **Arditti Student Laboratory** in honor of the life and immeasurable contributions of Mort Arditti.

The words innovator, inventor, problem solver and friend come to mind when describing Mort. For years, as a retiree, devoting his time as a volunteer at the USC Ginsburg IBT. He spent countless hours working closely with IBT graduate students, post-docs and faculty to solve research problems and fix laboratory instrumentation. With a background in electrical engineering, Mort had skills and talent for fixing gadgets and was the “go to guy” for any issues in the lab. Mort was always accessible. Many students recall several occasions where Mort would make himself available to provide support and come up with innovative solutions to fix instruments that would otherwise cost thousands of dollars to repair. In addition, Mort also provided concise lectures, simplifying concepts on complex electronic instrumentation, allowing students to put them into practice.

Before joining IBT, Mort worked at a company owned by Al Mann, an inventor, entrepreneur and philanthropist who was the founder and chairman of Second Sight Medical Products, a company that manufactures Argus II, the first FDA approved retinal prosthesis. It was through this connection that Dr. Humayun, director of the USC Ginsburg IBT and inventor of Argus II, had the opportunity to first meet Mort.

“Mort will be dearly missed and remembered for his cheerful, positive and hardworking nature, inspiring all those around him to do better,” Mark Humayun, MD, PhD, director of USC Ginsburg IBT.

Sadly, Mort passed away from cancer on March 15, 2018. His wish was to give back to the institute that he cherished and he did so by making a gift to support fellowship support for postdoctoral researchers performing ophthalmic research at the USC Ginsburg IBT. To recognize this gift, the USC Ginsburg IBT has named the student laboratory where he worked in his honor.



Mordechai “Mort” Arditti

Mordechai, known as Mordi or Mort, Arditti was born in Russe, Bulgaria on November 7, 1934. Mort lived in Israel from 1944 to 1956 and attended a technical high school in Tel Aviv. He served in the Israeli air force as an electronics specialist. He came to the US in 1956 and earned a BS degree in electrical engineering from Los Angeles State University. After graduating, Mort worked at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in the division of thoracic surgery where he helped develop the Swan-Ganz catheter. He eventually retired from Boeing and began volunteering his time at USC. Mort loved dogs and had a passion for amateur radio, boating, diving, skiing and tennis. He is survived by his brother; Dr. Joseph Arditti, nephew, Dr. Jonathan Arditti (both USC alumni) and his long-time companion Ms. Virginia G. Quintana.