A Year On

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A year on, the premature passing of Lee Goodglick leaves an enduring gap in our academic community at UCLA and nationally. He departed in the peak of a distinguished career in translational cancer biology, succumbing to pancreatic cancer at the age of 54.

After completing his Ph.D. at Brown University, postdoctoral training at Brown and UCLA, and receiving an MBA at the UCLA Anderson School, Lee Goodglick joined the faculty of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in 1994, and reached the rank of full professor. He was an expert in cancer and precancer biomarker discovery and validation, and his contributions to lung cancer and to the National Cancer Institute Early Detection Research Network are particularly notable, reported in over 75 research publications. At UCLA, he played dynamic roles in the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Clinical Translational Science Institute, and Nanosystems Institute; and, he maintained a continuous dedication to medical and dental school teaching.

In 2005, Lee conceived and inaugurated an unprecedented innovation in the science seminar at UCLA, now termed the CTSI/IMED lecture series. Under his vibrant leadership, it exclusively featured the leading creative scientific and cultural voices of the nation, emerging as the signature seminar of the entire UCLA community. Lee’s probing and wry introductions were often as memorable as the lectures, and are a heritage of our community. Lee was also an avid sportsman, responsible for the notorious loading dock basketball series at the MacDonald Research Laboratory, and a colleague and mentor of sweetness and generosity of spirit. He is survived by his parents and siblings, his wife, Dr. Rietta Coetzer Goodglick, their three-year-old son, Joseph, and a thousand colleagues and mentees whose lives ahead will continue to spark with his earnest ambition, wry humor, and unflagging curiosity.