It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Walter W. Bond, Jr., MS on May 24, 2016 after a short but serious illness. He was 73 years old.

Walter (Walt) was a Texan, having been born in El Paso and growing up in Lubbock. He graduated from Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University) with a BS in Bacteriology in 1964. He attended graduate school at Northwestern College of Louisiana in Natchitoches, Louisiana and received his MS in Microbiology in 1967.

Walt had an illustrious 31-year career as an indoor environmental microbiologist. He went to work for the Centers for Disease Control in 1968 where he was assigned to the Phoenix Field Station and began working in the Planetary Quarantine/Spacecraft Sterilization program in partnership with NASA for the
Mariner-Mars 1969 spacecraft. While in Phoenix, he did notable research on spore-forming bacteria. During this time he discovered a highly thermo-resistant spore form of a Gram-positive bacterium which was officially named *Bacillus xerothermodurans*. Shortly afterward, he and some of his colleagues there in Phoenix conducted ground-breaking applied research in microbial inactivation and environmental infection control. The scope of his work at this time included hepatitis B virus microbiology, sterilization and disinfection of medical instruments and healthcare facility surfaces, microbial quality of potable water and hemodialysis fluids and healthcare worker safety. Walt and Martin Favero, PhD discovered that hepatitis B virus (HBV) could persist in an infectious state on environmental surfaces for at least seven days under ambient room conditions, a finding that underscored the importance of promptly cleaning and disinfecting blood contamination of hospital surfaces. Along with his colleague Ramon Moncada, MD, he published some of the first applied research on the reprocessing of flexible fiberoptic endoscopes. CDC closed the Phoenix Field Station in 1983 and moved the staff to CDC here in Atlanta. He joined the Hospital Infections Program (now the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion) where he continued his work on the chemical disinfection of HBV, cleaning and disinfection of endoscopes, and providing microbial inactivation consultations to HIP EIS officers during outbreak investigations.

Throughout his CDC career, Walt made major contributions to the development of our current basic infection prevention principles. Walt and Dr. Favero were central to CDC’s working with Dr. Earle Spaulding in the late 1970s which lead to the agency adopting and promoting the “Spaulding Classification.” The Spaulding Classification as a concept enabled healthcare professionals to determine the appropriate level of microbial inactivation needed for any instrument or device during cleaning and reprocessing in order to make the instrument safe for use on the next patient. The Spaulding Classification took into account the intended use of the instrument or device and the expectation of adverse outcomes if the instrument or device was contaminated at time of use. Walt was also supportive of a microbiology colleague Professor Willie Greene, University of Minnesota, in promoting Dr. Greene’s concept we know today as the “Chain of Infection.” This simple but powerful concept of infectious disease transmission helps healthcare professionals to determine the most effective methods for infection control and prevention for virtually every pathogen. Walt also developed the graphic that depicts the ascending level of microbial resistance to chemical disinfectants. This enabled healthcare professionals to determine what level of disinfectant potency was needed to inactivate bacterial, viral, or fungal pathogens whenever disinfection was indicated as the final step in instrument or surface reprocessing.

Walt made major contributions to many of CDC’s infection prevention guidelines, most notably the 1985 "Guideline for Handwashing and Hospital Environmental Control" and the 1993 and 2003 editions of the "Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings." He authored more than 60 journal publications and numerous book chapters. He retired as a Senior Research Microbiologist/ Deputy Branch Chief of the Program’s laboratories in January 1998. He spent several years thereafter as an independent consultant in healthcare environmental microbiology doing business as RCSA, Inc.

Walt was a member of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) for 50 years, and was inducted as a Microbiologist to the National Registry of Microbiologists in 1975. While in Phoenix, he served in major leadership capacities in the Arizona Branch of ASM. He received the OSAP (Organization for Safety, Asepsis, and Prevention) “Dr. James J. Crawford Award for Lifetime Achievement” in recognition of major contributions in science, education and public policy in 2001.
Walt lived in Lawrenceville, Georgia for many years. He was a motorcycle enthusiast and especially 
enjoyed units with a side car attached. He loved fishing, reading, cooking, sharing good times with 
friends, and listening to bluegrass music. He was devoted to all of his pets and loved animals in general. 
He took great pride in the Obedience training/competitions of his German shepherd (Dixie I) and Belgian 
Tervuren (Dixie II).

Walt is survived by his present partner and significant other Lynne Sehulster of Lawrenceville Georgia, 
his previous partner and significant other Karen McCaustland of Snellville, Georgia, and cousins in Texas 
and Oklahoma.

A Celebration of Life service was held at the Wages & Sons Funeral Home and Crematorium, 1031 
Lawrenceville Highway, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046 on Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 4:00 PM. 
Condolesnces may be sent online at www.wagesandsons.com . Wages & Sons Funeral Home, 1031 
Lawrenceville Hwy., Lawrenceville, GA 30046. (Phone 770-277-4550).

Donations in Walt’s memory can be directed to groups who provide service dogs to disabled military 
veterans (e.g. PatriotPaws www.patriotpaws.org/donate.html or America’s Vet Dogs www.vetdogs.org ) 
or to programs that rescue military service dogs and police dogs and put them up for adoption (Save-A-Vet 

Lynne M. Sehulster, PhD, M(ASCP) 
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