

George Charles Wagner, 72, of Hopewell, New Jersey, passed on November 20, 2021.

He was born on June 12, 1949, in Bronxville, New York, to George and Addie (Marano) Wagner, and grew up in Yorktown Heights, and also in Fairfield, Connecticut.

He won a Connecticut state scholarship and attended Fairfield University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, and subsequently attended Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo where he earned two master's degrees, in biology and psychology. On a Searle Fellowship, he went on to complete his doctorate in biopsychology at the University of Chicago, with a specialty in behavioral pharmacology and a focus on the neurochemical mechanism of Parkinson's disease.

Professor Wagner joined the psychology department of Rutgers University in 1981, where his research focused on behavioral models of Parkinson's disease and autism. With his passion for teaching, he trained numerous undergraduate and graduate students. Over the course of four decades, he was especially proud to have graduated twenty-one doctoral students. He won the Rutgers University Warren L. Susman Teaching Excellence Award in 1994 and the New Jersey Biomedical Research Association Mentor Award in 2006. His collaborations with students and colleagues generated well over a hundred scientific peer-reviewed articles.

Professor Wagner served as the vice chair for the Psychology Graduate Program at Rutgers from 1992 to 1997 and 2007 to 2018. He was a member of the editorial board of *Aggressive Behavior*, a peer-review journal, and also belonged to many professional organizations, notably the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Americans for Medical Progress, Eastern Psychological Association, International Society for Research on Aggression, and the Society for Neuroscience.

As an avocation, he was fascinated by nineteenth-century art and natural sciences, especially geology and fossils. With his wife, Roberta, he meticulously restored a Victorian house in Hopewell, New Jersey, along with dozens of pieces of salvaged Victorian furniture. He was a consummate woodturner with mastery of open-segmented turning, and also more recently, applied his talents to working with leaded glass.

He is survived by his wife of thirty-seven years, Dr. Roberta A. Mayer; sister, Lori Wagner Kattner and her husband Lanny of Charlotte, North Carolina; brother, John Wagner and his wife Sue (Hart) of Trumbull, Connecticut; his aunt and uncle, Jean (Wagner) and John Cannon; many cousins; two nieces and six nephews; and eleven grandnieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wagner Free Institute of Science, a preserved nineteenth-century natural history museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, one of his favorite places (<http://wagnerfreeinstitute.org/>), or to any educational and cultural institution. A memorial service will be planned for the spring of 2022.