Paul J. Lioy (1947-2015)

It is with great sadness that the New Jersey Clean Air Council acknowledges the passing of Dr. Paul J. Lioy, a friend and colleague to numerous members of the council. Paul served on the Clean Air Council in the mid-1980s through the 1990s and served as chairman at one time during that period. Paul was an early pioneer and expert in the field of Environmental Health, focusing his research on Exposure Science and Human Exposure Assessment. He was one of the world’s leading experts in human exposure to environmental toxins. Most recently, Professor Lioy was Division Director in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Rutgers University - School of Public Health. Until 30 June 2015 he was Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Rutgers University - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He was also the Deputy Director of Government Relations and Director of Exposure Science, at the Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute in Piscataway, New Jersey. His expertise and testimony about the adverse effect of air pollutants was most recently sought when he testified at the April Public Hearing of the New Jersey Clean Air Council in Trenton.

His work has been recognized by the International Society of Exposure Analysis (now International Society of Exposure Science) (Lifetime Achievement Award) and the Air and Waste Management Association (Lifetime Achievement Award) for his research and application to environmental policy. Since 2002 he was one of Information Sciences Institute’s Most Highly Cited Scientists in the Category of Environment and Ecology, and is one of the founders of the International Society of Exposure (Analysis) Science (1989).

Lioy’s reputation evolved primarily based upon his role in developing scientific principles and refining the approaches that define the field of exposure science. This discipline is associated with the field of environmental and occupational health sciences, which includes epidemiology and risk assessment, and prevention. In a 1990 article published in Environmental Science and Technology he was the first to properly locate exposure science as the bridge between traditional environmental sciences and the understanding of human health outcomes.

Dr. Lioy had been a central figure in understanding exposure to the air pollutant tropospheric ozone, chloroform and other toxicant exposures from shower water, hexavalent chromium wastes, and most recently, the exposures derived from the dust and smoke released in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. He had been called upon numerous time by the Clean Air Council to provide his expertise and insights into an air pollution issue and had testified many times at the annual New Jersey Clean Air Council Public Hearing. Paul was also a member of the NJDEP's Science Advisory Board, a prestigious group of scientists and engineers whose environmental recommendations impact the public health of the state of New Jersey.

Dr. Lioy was truly a leader in his field. He will be missed by all of us on the Council, his friends, colleagues, and students both past and present. His guiding principles helped to shape the career of many investigators over the decades who continue to build upon his research. May he rest in peace.