In Memoriam: Christina Enroth-Cugell

Christina Alma Elisabeth Enroth-Cugell, emerita professor of biomedical engineering and neurobiology, passed away June 15 at age 96. She will be remembered as a renowned vision scientist, distinguished researcher, and compassionate colleague.

Arriving at Northwestern in 1955, Enroth-Cugell worked as a research fellow and instructor in the University’s Department of Ophthalmology before transitioning to the role of faculty in the Department of Physiology. In 1968, she began a joint appointment between the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and the McCormick School of Engineering, where she was one of the first female faculty members to teach engineering at Northwestern. She was an early faculty member of what became McCormick’s Department of Biomedical Engineering and Weinberg’s Department of Neurobiology, and served as chair of the Department of Neurobiology from 1984 to 1986.

A celebrated researcher, Enroth-Cugell made several contributions to the areas of visual adaptation and the spatial and temporal aspects of receptive fields, and was at the center of the study of vision at Northwestern. Her lab, where she continued to play an active role well after her retirement in 1990, was a vital hub for producing many of today’s vision scientists.

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Michael Byun

A board-certified plastic surgeon, Michael Byun, MD, is the founder and director of Chicago Cosmetic Surgery and the BION Medica Skin Care Clinic. He has also developed anti-aging products, such as a cell biology-focused transformation growth factor beta, which is responsible for cell turnover. Now he is developing injectable serums that can either target bone, muscle, fat, or skin for cosmetic and reconstructive surgery.

Byun received his MD from Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, where he completed his medical training. He has previously served as a research adviser at the University of California, Irvine Department of Neurobiology and at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Research.

Carson Thomas

Carson Thomas is the director of portfolio strategy for Baxter’s renal business, which works to improve to lives of renal patients worldwide. Before joining Baxter, Thomas spent 15 years with GE Healthcare, working in marketing, strategy, and product development within the x-ray business and radiation dose tracking business. When he was hired at GE, he initially worked in clinical research and advanced clinical applications to introduce the first digital x-ray systems and several advanced applications that helped transition the x-ray modality into a digital modality.

Before leaving the x-ray business, Thomas managed all new product development globally for the radiography and fluoroscopy business and became segment manager of the radiography business. He earned his PhD in biomedical engineering from Northwestern.