



MARK SMITH, PhD, at a 1999 MSNO meeting.

Mark Smith, Obituary

Mark Smith was born and educated in England. After a fellowship in Vienna, Austria, Dr. Smith joined Case Western University's Pathology Dept. in 1992. He was a long time MSNO member and was President 1998-1999. In his 18 years at Case, he authored over 800 manuscripts and chapters in Alzheimer's research and was often cited. He was also recognized for his work mentoring graduate students, many of who won awards at MSNO poster competitions.

Mark and former MSNO member George Perry (now in San Antonio) are internationally known leaders in Alzheimer's research. Together, they co-chaired a very well regarded symposium on that topic at M&M 2010 in Portland, OR and were to co-chair a continuation of that symposium at the M&M 2011 meeting in Nashville.

Mark was 45 at the time of his passing and leaves a wife, Dr. Gemma Casadesus of CWRU's Neuroscience Dept., and two children.

The following article was recently published in the Plain Dealer:

Mark A. Smith, CWRU professor, is killed by car; driver is later found dead

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By **Patrick O'Donnell, The Plain Dealer**



Courtesy of Case Western Reserve University Case Western Reserve University professor Mark A. Smith

BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP, Ohio -- Case Western Reserve University medical professor and Alzheimer's researcher Mark Smith was killed Sunday morning in a hit-and-run accident while walking home from a tavern near his house.

The apparent driver in the 2 a.m. accident, Daniel Neesham, 50, of Bainbridge Township, was found dead at his home later that day, Township Police Chief Jon Bokovitz said Monday.

"There's a lot of people talking," Bokovitz said. "Don't believe everything you hear because we don't know yet."

Smith, 45, was spotted lying on Chagrin Road by a motorist at 2:10 a.m., according to Bokovitz, and was pronounced dead at the Solon Medical Campus. He was found between the Greenville Inn and his home in Bainbridge.

Stephen Taylor, a friend of Smith's, said they met other friends at the inn that night for an early Christmas celebration. Inn employees remember both Smith and Neesham at the inn that night, according to bartender Betsy Harris.

Police believe Smith was walking east toward his home when he was struck by Neesham's Toyota Camry, also heading east. There are no sidewalks in that area on the border with Chagrin Falls.

Autopsies for both men were planned for Monday, though results were not immediately available.

Bokovitz declined to discuss details of injuries to either man or how Neesham was found.

Smith was originally from Britain and had been educated there and in Vienna, Austria, before coming to CWRU in 1992. He was a professor of pathology and director of basic science research of the University Memory and Cognition Center.

He was co-editor-in-chief of the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease and executive director of the American Aging Association.

His wife, Gemma Casadesus, is an assistant professor in the school's neurosciences department. They have two young children.

Medical School Dean Pamela Davis said Smith was a great teacher -- winning separate awards for mentoring graduate students and undergraduates -- and a valuable researcher whose work influenced many other researchers.

"I think he's a huge loss. He was a voice that doesn't necessarily follow the crowd," Davis said.

George Perry, the other editor of the Alzheimer's journal, said Smith's research was critical in identifying oxidative stress as a cause of the disease.

Perry, a professor of the University of Texas at San Antonio, noted that a ranking of researchers in the broader field of neuroscience and behavior found Smith's work the 21st most-cited.

Details about Neesham were not available Monday.

His sister Heather, reached by phone Monday, declined to discuss the accident or his death until police finish their investigation.

"We don't know yet what happened," she said.

Services have not been set for either man. Arrangements for Smith will be by Stroud-Lawrence Funeral Home in Chagrin Falls. Services for Neesham will be through the Tabone Funeral Home, Solon.