

Frank Pepe, Anatomy

JULY 18, 2023 | VOL 70 ISSUE 1 ([HTTPS://ALMANAC.UPENN.EDU/VOLUME-70-NUMBER-1](https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-70-number-1)) | DEATHS |

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Frank Pepe

Frank Albert Pepe, an emeritus professor in the department of anatomy of the Perelman School of Medicine, died on June 20. He was 92.

Dr. Pepe did his undergraduate work at Union College, taking a BS in 1953, and went on to Yale University, earning a doctorate in 1957. Dr. Pepe came to Penn that year, after a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale, as an instructor in anatomy and research in the department of anatomy in Yale's School of Medicine. In 1963 he was named an assistant professor of anatomy, in 1965 an associate professor, and in 1970 a professor of anatomy. He became the department chair in 1977, serving until 1990. In 1984, he was named the Joseph Leidy Professor of Anatomy (*Almanac* February 21, 1984 (<https://almanac.upenn.edu/archive/v30pdf/n23/022184.pdf>)). He served

on the University Council and on several other University-wide committees. He retired from Penn in 1997 and took emeritus status.

Dr. Pepe was renowned for his research in the structural molecular anatomy of muscular fiber myosin and his use of highly specific monoclonal antibodies to study myofibrillar organization in fluorescence and electron microscopy. His work focused on the molecular organization of the contractile apparatus of muscle cells. While at Penn, Dr. Pepe received several University Research Foundation (URF) awards to support this research. Dr. Pepe held memberships in numerous professional and scientific societies, including the American Association of Anatomists, the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the John Morgan Society, and the American Institute of Biological Sciences. He also served on the editorial boards of several journals.

He is preceded in death by his sister, Mary P. (Pepe) DeMarco; his father, Rocco Pepe; his mother, Margherita (Ruggiero) Pepe; and his nephew, Paul R. DeMarco. He is survived by his nephews, Bruce A. DeMarco (Laurie), Brian A. DeMarco (Kara), and Michael A. DeMarco (Carla); and many great-nephews and great-nieces.