

Larry L. Laster, Penn Dental Medicine and Penn Vet

AUGUST 12, 2025 | **VOL 72 ISSUE 2 ([HTTPS://ALMANAC.UPENN.EDU/VOLUME-72-NUMBER-2](https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-72-number-2))** | **DEATHS** | **PRINT**

Larry L. Laster, an emeritus professor of epidemiology and biostatistics in clinical studies in Penn Vet and a former associate professor in Penn Dental Medicine, died on May 16. He was 84.

Dr. Laster earned his BS in experimental psychology and mathematics from Pennsylvania State University in 1962, then came to Penn to earn his MA in biostatistics (1966) and PhD in economics, regional science, statistics, and educational psychology (1974). While at Penn, he worked as a statistician at the Kelly Foundation for Medicine and Public Health and completed a summer program in biostatistics at Yale University. In 1964, while working on his MA, Dr. Laster joined Penn's faculty as an instructor in oral medicine at Penn Dental Medicine. He spent the next decade and a half as a member of Penn Dental Medicine's research faculty (specializing in biometrics) before joining the tenure track in 1978 as an associate professor. He served in this role until 1997, when he moved to Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine, where he became a professor of clinical sciences and advanced medicine.

Throughout his decades at Penn, Dr. Laster published peer-reviewed articles that related to both dental medicine and veterinary medicine. He retired from Penn and assumed emeritus status in 2009.

Dr. Laster is survived by his wife, Hong Yang; his children, Jeremy (Megan) Laster, Lori (Stanton Wood) Laster, Amy (Blake) Poe, and Emily Laster; his stepchild, Haohua Chen; and his grandchildren, Hattie and Piper Laster, Shiloh and Sacha Laster Wood, Torrey and Layla Poe, and Vincent Shepherd III.

Contributions in Dr. Laster's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org (<http://www.stjude.org>).