



Dr. Ah-Ng Tony Kong, 67, of Whitehouse Station, New Jersey passed away on February 4, 2026 after a prolonged battle with pneumonia.

Born in Kanowit, Malaysia, Tony was the son of Yuk Ming Kong and Lang Kiew Lai. Over the course of his life, he carried with him a deep appreciation for where he came from, a steady curiosity for learning, and a genuine warmth that made people feel at ease in his presence.

His academic journey reflected both discipline and commitment. He earned his BS in Pharmacy from the University of Alberta, Canada, his PhD in Pharmaceutics, Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and completed two Post-Doctoral Fellowships at the National Institutes of Health.

Tony was at Rutgers University for 25 years as a Distinguished Professor and Glaxo Endowed Chair of Pharmaceutics and Director of the Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Prior to Rutgers, he was Associate Professor/Professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago and Assistant Professor at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. His extensive research on chemoprevention revealed novel mechanistic insights on how natural compounds in our food and supplements protect us through their beneficial interactions with the detoxification system, epigenome, and microbiota inside our body. He dedicated his career to advancing the field with over 350 publications and was an elected Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) in 2004 and an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2016. He received the Rutgers RBHS Chancellor Excellence in Basic Sciences Research Award in 2023. Of all of his accomplishments, he was most proud in guiding and mentoring the next generation of scientists and professionals, having trained more than 80 doctoral students, postdoctoral associates and visiting scholars with more than 30 NIH grants funded to date. Tony's research and service spoke to his dedication to better understand how natural compounds can help prevent cancer while making a meaningful impact through science and mentorship.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Tony was someone who truly embraced life even with his health challenges. He had a zest for life that showed up in the way he appreciated simple joys and small moments. In his youth, he excelled at racquet sports - table tennis, tennis, and especially badminton where he won several tournaments both in Malaysia and Canada. He loved spending time outdoors with family on our various trips to national parks such as Yosemite and Glacier National Park, skiing at Hunter Mountain and the Poconos, and hiking and kayaking in Hawaii. At home, he enjoyed gardening in the backyard growing tomatoes and green onions as well as greeting our neighbors during our evening walks. In recent months, he began watercolor painting natural landscapes, demonstrating an expression of his curiosity and creativity.

Above all, Tony was a loving husband and father. He is now reunited with his parents and siblings who preceded him in death: brother Piang Bun Kong and sisters Sien Yin Grace Kong and Luk Moi Pamela Kong. He is survived by his beloved wife, Carolyn, and their cherished children, Emily and Andrew. He is also survived by his siblings Kam Sui Kong, Kim Theh Kong, Fuk Tai Fred Kong and Chie-Eng Kristy Pitchford along with extended family, friends, colleagues, students and many whose lives were touched by his positive outlook, thoughtful mind, and generous heart.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Kirkpatrick Chapel in New Brunswick, New Jersey, which has significance to both Tony and Carolyn as this is where they were married. Please join us on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 12:00 PM ET. For those who are unable to join in person, please join us online here. We will also record it to accommodate different time zones.

[Online Zoom Link](#)

[Meeting ID: 896 1436 6294; Passcode: 2kpv49]

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Tony's memory to the Rutgers Foundation Pharmaceutical Science Pharmaceutics Research and Training Fund:

<https://give.rutgersfoundation.org/pharmaceutics-research-training/20359.html>

Condolences may be made to <https://www.kearnsfuneralhome.com>