

In honor of  
Bob B. Buchanan

Govindjee

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September 9, 2012

Rebeiz Foundation for Basic Research

(<http://www.vlpbp.org/>)

Champaign--Urbana, Illinois

# **Professor Bob B. Buchanan**

Executive Associate Dean, College of Natural Resources,  
University of California Berkeley

- **Member – US National Academy of Sciences - 1995**
- **Fellow - American Academy of Arts and Sciences – 1997**
- **Fellow - American Association for the Advancement of Science – 1997**
- **Charles F. Kettering Award for Excellence in Photosynthesis - American Society of Plant Biologists – 1998**
- **Stephen Hales Prize - American Society of Plant Biologists – 2005**
- **Fellow - American Society of Plant Biologists ( 2007); and of American Academy of Microbiology (2006)**



- Who is this child?
- What is he doing?
- Entering the dairy industry?

**1940**

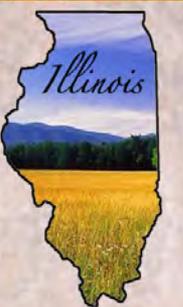
Well, it took 40 years  
before the young boy,  
now a young man, was  
able to turn milk into ice  
cream, using Thomas  
Jefferson's recipe



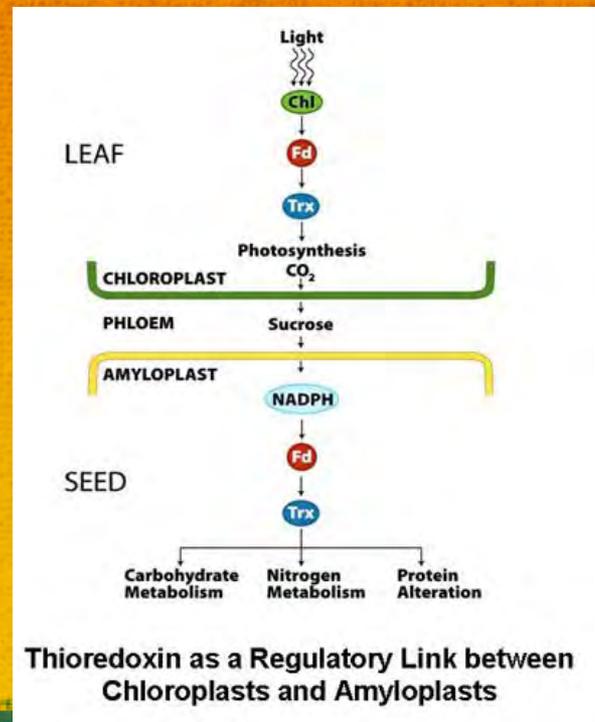
**1980**



Today, on September 9, 2012,  
we are honoring this distinguished young man,  
**Professor Bob Buchanan, from Berkeley, California**  
(that was also the home of Melvin Calvin, Andy  
Benson and Dan Arnon: basically “dark reaction”  
folks). And, importantly, we are honoring him in  
Champaign-Urbana, Illinois (that was the home of  
Robert Emerson and Eugene Rabinowitch, the “light  
reaction” folks) with the 2011 Lifetime Achievement  
Award of the Rebeiz Foundation, and that too at the  
beautiful home of Carole and Tino Rebeiz.



I will show you some slides to  
celebrate this wonderful event  
for Bob, sometimes referred to  
as BBB



Source of figures: <http://pmb.berkeley.edu/profile/bbuchanan>

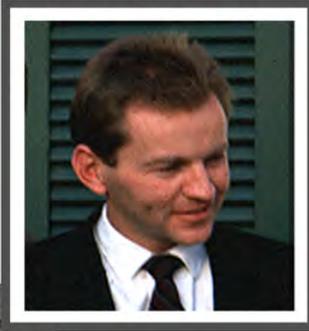
Research in Bob's Laboratory focuses on a very important regulatory protein, called thioredoxin, found in plants.

He is THE authority on this protein..a major discoverer of everything about it – Please ask him and see his eyes shine!

Bob B. Buchanan (1963)



Peter Schürmann (1971)



Hilgard Hall



Jean-Pierre Jacquot (1980)



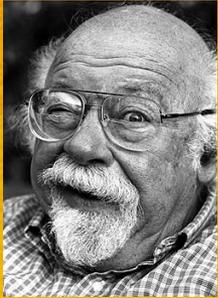
Richard Wolosiuk (1975)

Early investigators who studied the ferredoxin-thioredoxin system in Hilgard Hall at Berkeley during the 1960's, 70's and 80's.

**Who is Who of the Ferredoxin/Thioredoxin System, Berkeley: 1960s, 1970s and 1980s**  
**Question: Who was the first?**  
**Answer: Bob Buchanan**

Source: BBB

## Who were Bob's mentors?



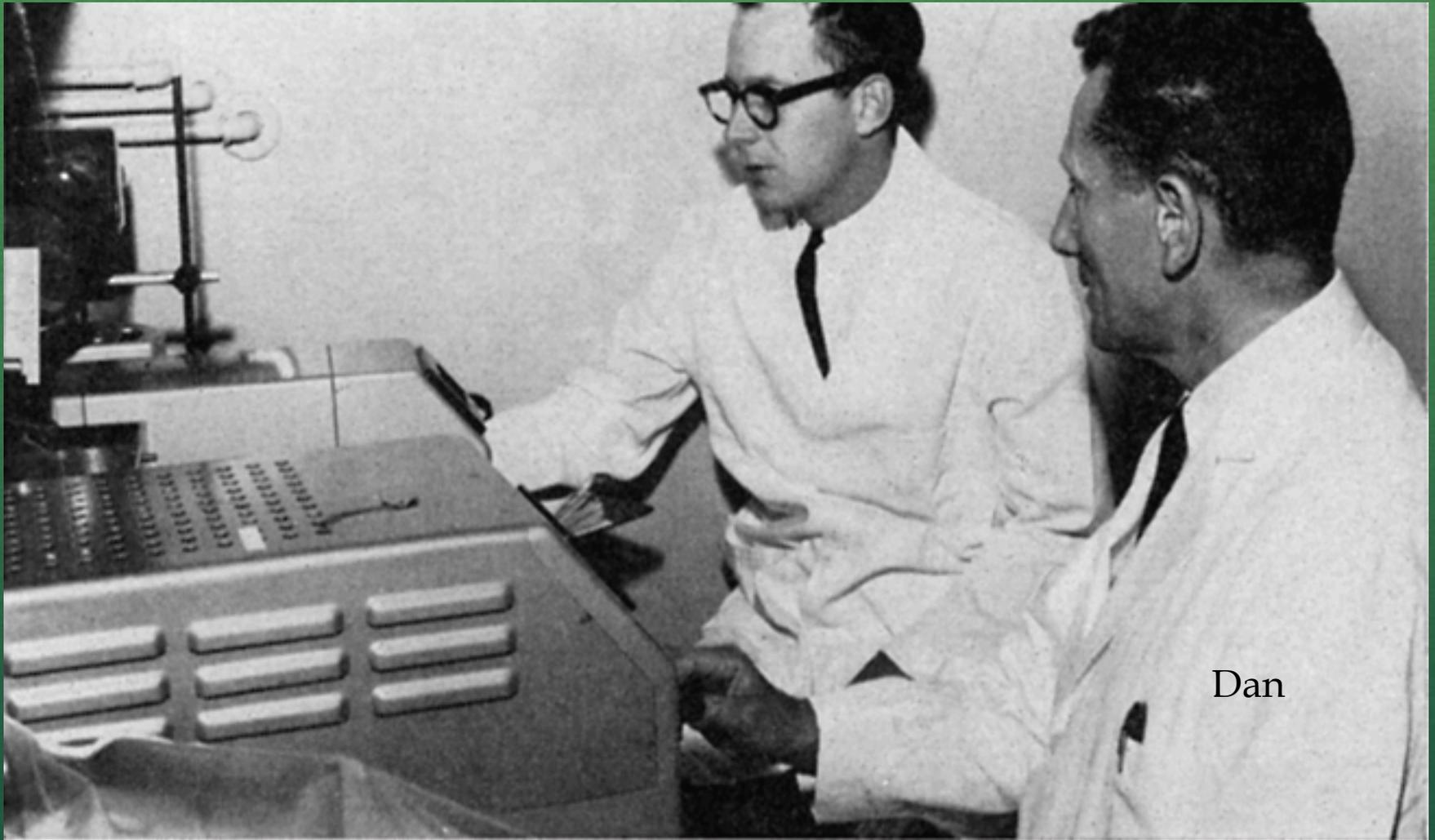
[1] Jesse C. Rabinowitz (1925 – 2003; a distinguished molecular and cell biologist), world authority on basic biology of folic acid; he was a true devotee of culture science, art, music, literature; above all, he was a great photographer



[2] Daniel I. Arnon (1910-1994; a distinguished plant biochemist), discoverer of photophosphorylation in chloroplasts; and one of the most colorful personalities in the field of photosynthesis (once in Germany, I had to share the same bed as him since the organizers only gave us a room with one big bed)



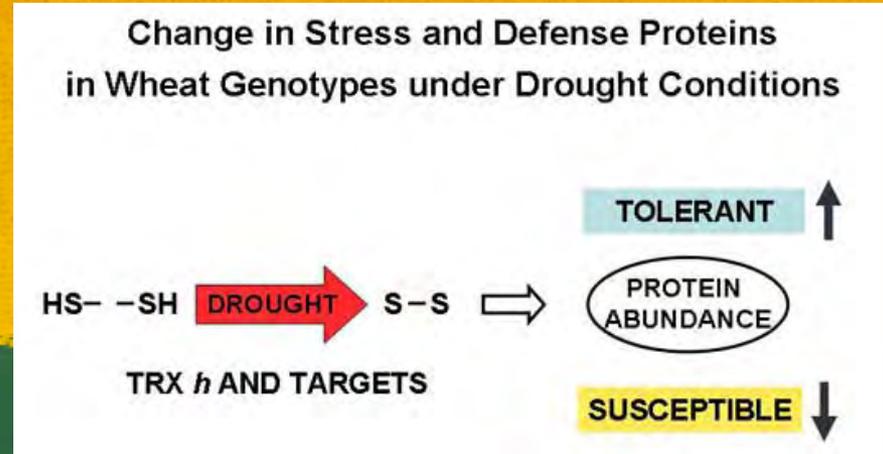
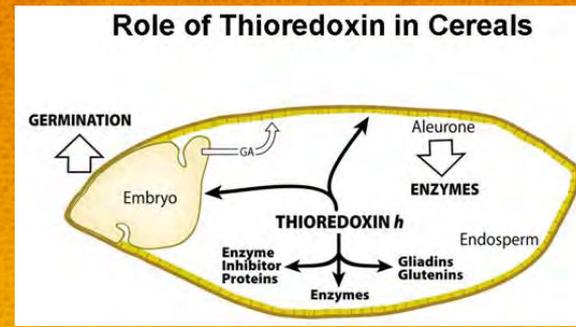
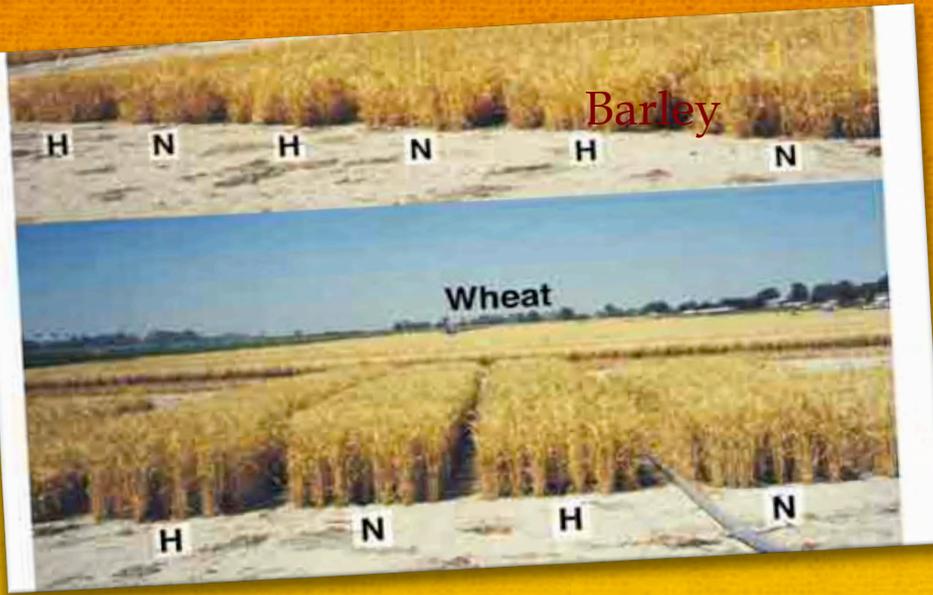
**As a postdoc with Jesse C. Rabinowitz (1925 – 2003)  
UC Berkeley – 1963**



**Discovery of Ferredoxin-linked CO<sub>2</sub> fixation in Photosynthetic Bacteria  
With Daniel Arnon at the Zeiss Spectrophotometer  
UC Berkeley, 1964**



**With Daniel Arnon – UC Berkeley, 1968  
Discussing the Reverse Citric Acid Cycle in Bacterial Photosynthesis**



## Improving plants through photosynthesis – by overexpressing thioredoxin

Studies together with many including **Ghasem Hosseini Salekdeh** and his collaborators ( in Iran) have uncovered a role for thioredoxin enabling wheat to survive drought conditions.





**Family Gathering at Virginia Farm – 1991  
Great, great grandfather and son in the background**



I end this short tribute to Bob by showing a photo I took of him with Dan Arnon's daughters, Ruth and Ann, ~ 2005.. Congratulations and Enjoy the party