Saul Korey was a remarkable person. As a physician, he was an excellent clinician who diagnosed his own terminal illness and strenuously disagreed with his colleagues who opted for a more benign explanation for his severe back pain. As a researcher he was at the bench, putting in hours in the lab after his long day of clinical care, teaching, advising, and administration. His view of neurological research was expansive. At a time when the understanding of lipid storage diseases was almost nonexistent, he put together a team of biochemists, electron microscopists and clinicians and it was his open vision and administrative skill that guided us all. The break-through findings on Tay-Sachs disease and the careers that began then were because of Saul. I was privileged to have been part of his team and instrumental in the isolation of the membranous cytoplasmic bodies that are pathognomonic of Tay-Sachs disease.

It was the beginning of a new widespread research effort. Saul was my patient advisor through my post-doctoral fellowship and made possible my subsequent appointment to the faculty at the NYU School of Medicine. I am forever grateful for all he did for me.

He directed and participated in the research effort, while he also chaired the Department of Neurology and Einstein’s college-wide, interdisciplinary neuroscience program. At seminars, he always sat in front, hunched over as if sound asleep. But a soon as the talk was over, he was on his feet with a penetrating question or comment.
It was fitting that after his terribly untimely death the Neurology Department should bear his name. I am very pleased that I suggested it and that it was adopted despite the usual custom of always naming for a benefactor. Saul Korey should be remembered for who he was and for what he was by the generations of faculty and residents that pass through the department that carries his name.

July 28, 2009

Stanley Samuels, Ph.D.
Suggested the Neurology Dept. be named for Dr. Korey, after his untimely death
Former Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, New York University School of Medicine