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Editorial



During the final preparation of this special issue, Dr John Barrett, the Guest Editor, suddenly and unexpectedly died of a massive heart attack on January 24, 2006. In addition to being a personal tragedy for his many friends and colleagues, John's passing is a significant loss for our discipline.

John's professional achievements are well documented in his regular participation in high visibility meetings, numerous publications, patents, editorial work, and position as Senior Director, Infectious Diseases Research at Merck Research Laboratories. In addition to this present contribution, John collaborated with us as an Editorial Board member of *Current Protocols in Pharmacology*. In fact, it was during this association that we became impressed with John's tireless efforts, vision, and ability to recognize and address key strategic issues in

anti-infective drug discovery. These traits, and his collegial nature, led to our inviting him to prepare this special issue of *Biochemical Pharmacology*.

While working closely with John on this project over the past year we came to value his good humor, objectivity, and perseverance. In preparing this special issue John strove to ensure that the information was current, comprehensive, and provocative, while at the same time readily accessible to those outside the field. He pushed his authors to meet these goals, and held them to the highest editorial standards. Thanks to his efforts, the present volume represents a state-of-the-art monograph in antibacterial research. We take great pride in publishing this issue.

In addition to being an outstanding scientist, John was a caring person, a true gentleman. We are better people for having known him, and will miss his good humor and sage advice. He certainly made our job as Editors much easier. Accordingly, it is with sadness, but deep gratitude, that we dedicate this special issue of *Biochemical Pharmacology* to the memory of John Francis Barrett, scientist, colleague, and friend.

Editor-in-Chief
S.J. Enna

Editor
Michael Williams
University of Kansas Medical School,
Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Therapeutics,
3901 Rainbow Boulevard, Mail Stop 1018, Kansas City,
KA 66160-0227, United States

0006-2952/\$ – see front matter © 2006 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
doi:10.1016/j.bcp.2006.01.018