

## Editorial



Dr. Robert F. Steiner, who retired as an editor of *Biophysical Chemistry* in 1995, received his B.A. degree from Princeton University in 1947 and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Harvard University in 1950. He then went to the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda as a Jewett Fellow and remained as a staff member until 1970. During his last seven years there he headed the Laboratory of Physical Biochemistry. In 1966 he received the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Initially, Dr. Steiner engaged in research on protein–protein interactions, including self-associating systems and the association of two different monomer species. He developed methods for analyzing the concentration dependence of molecular weight in terms of consecutive association equilibrium constants. In collaboration with R.F. Beers, he made some of the original physico-chemical characterizations of the biosynthetic polyribonucleotides pre-

pared by the action of polyribonucleotide phosphorylase. A third area of activity was the development of spectroscopic techniques as applied to biochemical problems, including fluorescence and fluorescence polarization. In particular, he further developed the work of G. Weber on the use of fluorescence techniques for monitoring structural transitions and binding interactions of proteins.

In 1970 he moved to the University of Maryland (Baltimore County), where he remained as Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry until 1995, when he acquired emeritus status. From 1974 to 1982 he was a fellow of the Society for the Promotion of Science (Japan). Dr. Steiner was a founding member of *Biophysical Chemistry* which first appeared in 1971. While at Maryland he continued his work on the development and use of fluorescence techniques in monitoring protein structure and interactions. Together with E. Bucci, he was the first to explore

internal librational motions of the hemoglobin molecule using time resolved fluorescence anisotropy in the nanosecond range. Other systems he studied in detail included glycogen phosphorylase and especially calmodulin. In particular, he collaborated with J.R. Lakowicz to apply frequency domain dynamic fluorescence to the calmodulin system and to develop the use of dynamic measurements of radiationless energy transfer in recovering the distribution of separations of donor and acceptor groups.

Dr. Steiner's work has been reported in over 160 publications and seven books. He has served in many scientific peer review groups and as mentor to several dozen postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, many of whom have gone on to win eminence in their own right. In 1956 he married Ethel Fisher. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Dr. Steiner is currently a member of Amnesty International. His future activities include flying, computer-edited photography, scientific consultation,

writing and, most importantly, serving as a grandfather.

Erico Bucci

P.S. I would like to thank Erico Bucci for this editorial honouring Bob Steiner and wish to reiterate that Bob's contribution to the development and quality of *Biophysical Chemistry* cannot be undervalued. He has been a strength and has, by virtue of his own impeccable standards, attracted many very high quality papers. We know that his continued activity for the *Journal*, as a member of the Advisory Editorial Board, will continue to enhance the profile of the journal. We thank him for all his unstinting help and wish him well in his scientific and personal future.

A. Watts (Principal Editor)