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Editorial, Eisenberg Special Issue

It gives me the greatest of pleasure to honour Heini Eisenberg's highly distinguished career in science with both this special issue of *Biophysical Chemistry* and the one day Symposium in New Orleans on Friday 11th February 2000. So many of his former colleagues, friends, and interested participants, as well as his son, attended the symposium ahead of the American Biophysical Society main annual meeting that it was difficult to fit all the talks into the day, with so many people wishing to partake. However, there was still time for characteristic lively interaction and a dinner in the evening at which more informal exchanges occurred. This volume, therefore, is compiled from both the lectures of the attendees at the symposium, as well as some contributions from people who were not able to attend, but wanted to be included and ensure that Heini was recognised in this way. The breadth of topics is staggering and reflects not only the range of Heini's experience and expertise, but also the wide range of scientific activities in which his former and current eminent colleagues are working.

Personally, I have found Heini to be a veritable pillar of strength whilst working as Principal Editor of *Biophysical Chemistry*, for which editing this issue will be my last task. If ever there was a paper for which I was unable to find a suitable referee, Heini invariably set me on the trail of a good and responsive reviewer, as a result of his incredible wealth of knowledge of people, their fields of interest and their whereabouts. Rarely was there a waiting period, the request for help was answered within minutes, a rare characteris-

tic in anyone these days, but a clear reflection of his responsibility and dedication to science. Keeping track with his many trans-Atlantic journeys, which have all but ceased, was also a task in itself. However, getting him to agree to this venue in New Orleans for the symposium, was not difficult; it seems to be one of his favourite US cities. It was only a great shame that his wife, Nutzi, could not join him this time.

Heini was one of the first Editors of *Biophysical Chemistry*, having been on the Editorial Board from 1978 until 1993. Even when he retired from the Editorial Board in 1993, he has continued to lend his support by serving on the Advisory Editorial Board, coming to meetings, reviewing and providing input from every direction when asked. His high editorial and reviewing standards in his own areas of expertise, were quite clearly instrumental in maintaining the reputation of the journal, especially in the hydrodynamics and supermolecular interaction areas. He has been an ardent supporter of *Biophysical Chemistry* and has published several papers in it. The first paper appeared in 1975 in the Special Issue marking 50 years of the ultracentrifuge (Eisenberg, H., *Sedimentation in the ultracentrifuge and diffusion of macromolecules carrying electrical charges*, *Biophysical Chem.*, 5 (1975) 243–251). As a Principal Editor, it was very reassuring for me to have such distinction associated with the journal, giving it a sense of security and authority in the community, with standards to maintain knowing that everything published is critically read and judged.

I echo all the good wishes and praise bestowed on Heini, both at the symposium and here in this volume. It is anticipated that the papers contained in this special issue will justly add to the field of biophysical chemistry, and serve as a reference with contributions from some of the most distinguished people in the field, all of whom have worked with Heini at some time in their careers. We wish him a productive and thoroughly

enjoyable time in the future, for he never actually retired from science as those who know him recognise, and he should be content that he has made a really significant and solid contribution to science, affecting the lives and careers of many — it is a real pleasure and honour to know him.

Anthony Watts
(Oxford, July 2000)