

A note of special thanks to John D. Ferry

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As one whose life, both professionally and personally, has been deeply touched by John D. Ferry, I would like to express my deep appreciation for his many contributions to biomedical science. His elegant description of the development of fibrin sealant, presented as the keynote address at a New York Academy of Sciences conference on the molecular biology of fibrinogen and fibrin in 1982 (published in 1983), inspired me to think about how a physical chemist could apply *biotechnology* to *molecular medicine*.

I am especially indebted to him for this discovery, since it saved the life of my son. Aaron, then a college student at the University of Connecticut, suffered severe head trauma in a car accident some 4 years ago. Thanks to Ferry's pioneering development of this implantable biomaterial during World

War II, the neurosurgeons at Hartford Hospital were able to use fibrin film to seal a tear in Aaron's dura, the lining that protects the brain from infection. It was one of the few things they did that I understood, and I grasped at it like a light in that dark time.

Aaron went on to earn his BFA in photography. He would not be with us, and—I dare say—neither would innumerable soldiers similarly injured in Iraq, without the imaginative, insightful and innovative experimental approaches to fibrin structure and function that John D. Ferry first developed in the early days of protein chemistry. As a biophysical chemist who learned about the intricacies of fibrin's web from conversations with John D. Ferry and as a father, I owe him special thanks.

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