

## Editorial

Julian Sturtevant, our friend, mentor and inspiration, died on August 12, 2005 at the age of 97.

To all those who knew Julian, he was a gentleman who never sought to impose his views on others or to dominate his field. However, his scientific endeavour and enthusiasm have led to the emergence of the study of biothermodynamics as a key discipline in modern biological science. His drive to address the difficult questions resulted in the development of new instrumentation and formed part of the foundation from which modern biocalorimetry has evolved. Julian's humble character belied the huge influence and respect he gained and in all our work his memory lives on.

Julian was much loved and admired by his friends, colleagues and former members of his laboratory. It seemed fitting that we pay tribute to Julian by organizing this special issue containing contributions from those who knew and admired him. We solicited manuscripts from scientists around the world who had worked with Julian or who were inspired by his seminal contributions to biothermodynamics. We no doubt have failed in identifying all who should have been invited to contribute. If we neglected you, we apologize.

It is a fitting tribute to Julian that the authors in this issue of Biophysical Chemistry contributed scientific manuscripts and memoirs of high quality and in a short space of time. As editors of this issue, we have been privileged to oversee the assemblage of a publication which in a small way encapsulates some of the infectious hunger and pleasure at being in a position to make scientific discoveries that Julian passed onto us all.

One of us (JL) was fortunate enough to work in Julian's laboratory for 3 years from 1990 to 1993. He recollects: "having come from London with a background in inorganic polymer chemistry, arriving in Julian's laboratory to work solely on biomolecules was somewhat daunting. I remember my first day in the laboratory very clearly. After spending several frustrating hours realizing that I knew nothing and feeling totally out of my depth, we broke for the daily ritual of afternoon tea (a habit Julian had picked up from his days in Cambridge). Sitting down with my tea and biscuit with the rest of the group somehow relieved all of the worries I had and I knew that with a boss like Julian it was going to work out. After 3 years with Julian, I had not only received a fantastic academic education, but also learnt so much about what it takes to be a scientist. His enthusiasm for his work, his ability to inspire others, his grace in dealing with his colleagues and his extension of freedom to explore has provided me with a bench mark in my own academic career. My time in Julian's laboratory gave me everything I have today and I am immensely indebted to him".

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