

● Letter to the Editor-in-Chief

A TRIBUTE TO PETER N. T. WELLS, EMERITUS EDITOR OF ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY

To the Editor-in-Chief:

In July 2006, Dr. Peter Wells ended more than 13 years as Editor-in-Chief of this journal. It seems fitting to recap some of his major contributions and review his significant influence on the discipline of ultrasound applied to medicine and biology.

Peter assumed the editorship of *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology* from Denis White, the Founding Editor, in 1993. Together, Peter and Denis succeeded in overcoming the issues that beset a relatively new venture in a scientific and medical field that was (and is) still evolving. Peter maintained the high standards of excellence that Denis White established. During Peter's years at the helm, the journal has expanded from nine issues a year with 90 articles of all types in 816 pages to twelve issues in 2006 with 207 plus articles in 1947 pages. This is more than a doubling of content. He has wrestled with many problems, including late reviews from his board! During this time period, the scientific content has matured. In terms of impact factor, it is now the second ranking acoustics journal and 26th of 84 in radiology and medical imaging. All of this is a tribute to Peter's talent, dedication and effort.

But more importantly, Peter has been a leader in the evolution of medical ultrasound since the very beginnings, pioneering research in vestibular therapy, amplitude and Doppler demodulation and 1-, 2- and 3-dimensional imaging methods. He has earned many honors, including the medal award from the European Federation of Medical Physics in 2002, Fellow of the Royal Society in 2003, Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2005 and life membership in the World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology in 2006. Peter also authored seminal text and reference books, including a study guide for clinicians and a major text in medical ultrasound engineering. Through his work as a writer and editor, he was able to advance the field all over the world. We are all in his debt.

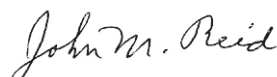
Peter's books include an early technical review,¹ a study guide for clinicians training for certification in diagnostic ultrasound,² and

most importantly, a major tome on medical ultrasound physics and engineering.³ This last book has been used by the many researchers and teachers as a reference and as a text for classes on ultrasound in our universities. This has been a major aid in training the next generation of engineers and researchers and has materially advanced the field. His later publications have maintained this advance and he remains a major force for promoting medical ultrasound.⁴

In addition to all of this, Peter has been in steady attendance at conferences worldwide, giving talks that have attracted large audiences. He has always been open to questions with his easygoing and friendly manner. A typical response was, "give me a few weeks time and I will talk about everything in ultrasound you can imagine". His didactical talents served to enlighten faculty of numerous ultrasound courses, both for scientists and medical doctors all over the world.

We are fortunate to have had Peter in our field and more fortunate still that he was such an able steward of *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology* during his tenure as Editor-in-Chief. We hope and trust that he will remain active in biomedical ultrasound, as evidenced by his current title, Distinguished Research Professor in the Institute of Medical Engineering and Medical Physics at Cardiff University in Wales, UK.

Sincerely,



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