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IN MEMORIAM

On 2 December 1990, Dr. Helen R. Whiteley died after a prolonged illness. Her chairmanship of the ASM Publications Board (1 July 1980 to 30 June 1990) spanned one of the most eventful decades in the Society's history. The growth rate during the 1980s was dramatic: a 60% increase in published pages, a 30% increase in circulation, and a 140% increase in total budget. While recognizing the need to be flexible in this time of such extraordinary growth and innovation, Dr. Whiteley always held firm to her conviction that ASM journals should represent the highest quality research, that the journals program should be truly representative of all microbiological disciplines, and that journals should be distributed to the widest possible audience at the lowest possible cost.

To achieve these ends, many changes were made. Journal scopes were continually reviewed and often changed. The number of editors was increased by 40% to reflect both the increased number of submissions and the need to cover new subdisciplines. Two new journals, *Molecular and Cellular Biology* and *Clinical Microbiology Reviews*, were launched. Minireviews and letters to the editor were instituted to provide more diversity and spark the readers' interest. Page charges were reinstated to preserve fiscal solvency. A different printing company was engaged to reduce cost and production time while increasing reproduction quality. The journal covers were redesigned, and the size was increased to the more popular 8 1/4 × 11" format. All foreign deliveries were sent by air freight. And finally, a computer-assisted manuscript tracking system was put in place at ASM Headquarters to expedite manuscript processing and provide much-needed statistical reports. All of this required an immense commitment of time and energy by Dr. Whiteley. Still more was required to resolve conflicts between journal scopes that often occurred as a natural consequence of growth and innovation, to survey



Helen R. Whiteley, Ph.D.
1922–1990

the need for new journals, to control costs yet allow for growth, to seek new sources of revenue, and to respond to competitive pressures.

The increasing concern about ethical conduct of authors, editors, and reviewers occasionally resulted in lengthy, sensitive deliberations that found the Publications Board Chair squarely in the middle. She was able to resolve the problems with diplomacy yet without compromising principle. There was never any question that Dr. Whiteley was a true champion of integrity in all matters involving the Society's publications, and she worked diligently to develop a set of published guidelines that clearly delineated the Publications Board position with regard to ethical conduct.

In addition to her commitment to journals, Dr. Whiteley initiated a first-class monograph series for ASM, beginning with *Bacteriophage T4* and continuing with *E. coli* and *Mobile DNA*. These and similar works became the basis for a significant expansion of the books program. In her last presentation to the ASM Council, Dr. Whiteley persuaded that body to reverse a long-standing prohibition against publishing textbooks. This reversal was a singular achievement for Dr. Whiteley and a critical milestone in the development of the books program. Recognizing the need to bring into the Society a higher level of book publishing expertise, she agreed to the hiring of a senior editor for book acquisition and development.

Always fascinated by publishing innovation, Dr. Whiteley took a keen interest in the development of electronic publishing alternatives to print media. She enthusiastically supported the ASM research and development commitment to a CD-ROM version of ASM journals. She also felt strongly that ASM should assert itself as a leader in developing this new technology.

Dr. Whiteley's guiding hand was felt in all aspects of the ASM publications program, and her presence will be sorely missed.

Author Index

- Abe, Naoki, 445
Affi, Mohamed S., 549
Allen, Martin J., 592
Atlas, R. M., 597
- Baldwin, Kathleen A., 539
Balkwill, David L., 402
Bej, A. K., 597
Berg, G., 395
Bojovic, Bojana, 385
Bostock, Richard M., 535
Boychuk, Irene, 606
Brenner, Don J., 592
Bric, John M., 535
Britton, P. W., 395
Broadbent, Jeffery R., 517
Brockman, Fred J., 402
Bruorton, M. R., 573
Burgess-Cassler, Anthony, 612
Burr, Thomas J., 486
- Cavicchioli, Ricardo, 359
Chadwick, Laurie J., 594
Conway, Patricia L., 499
- Daeschel, Mark A., 601
Dassy, B., 618
Davis, C. L., 573
Dehority, Burk A., 469
Deneer, Harry G., 606
Derikx, P. J. L., 563
Diehl, Jack D., Jr., 604
Djordjevic, Gordana, 385
Dommarsnes, Kari, 389
Doyle, J. D., 412
Drent, Wim J., 455
- Eberhart, Robert J., 568
Edberg, Stephen C., 592
El-Sharkawy, Saleh H., 549
Erskine, Ronald J., 568
Evans, Patrick J., 450
- Farrah, S. R., 395
Feirtag, Joellen M., 539
Fiset, Gisèle, 463
Fournier, J. M., 618
Fredrickson, James K., 402
Fry, John C., 366
- Gélinas, Pierre, 463
- Gerba, C. P., 395
Gilbert, Mathew T., 486
Gottschal, Jan C., 455
Gould, J. Michael, 612
Goulet, Jacques, 463
Goyal, S. M., 395
- Halaweish, Fathi T., 549
Harpending, Peter R., 480
Hayema, Bert Jan, 492
Henriksson, Anders, 499
Henson, Joan M., 553
Hicks, Cathleen R., 568
Hornes, Erik, 389
Hoskin, Francis C. G., 610
Hurst, C. J., 395
- Idziak, Edmund S., 586
Imam, Syed H., 612
Irgens, Roar L., 594
Izaki, Kazuo, 445
- Jany, Christine S., 349
Jeeninga, Rienk E., 492
Johnson, Timothy B., 349
Joseleau, Jean-Paul, 374
Jung, Dong-Sun, 601
- Kamio, Yoshiyuki, 445
Kaneko, Jun, 445
Kapperud, Georg, 389
Katz, Barbara H., 486
Kennedy, Christina, 622
Kim, Sang-Dal, 510
Kim, Yong-Su, 510
King, R. J., 412
Kohn, Linda M., 525
Koivula, Teija, 333, 341
Kok, Jan, 492
Kondo, Jeffery K., 517
- Lacis, Lynda S., 579
Lahpor, Greetje A., 455
Larkin, E. P., 395
Lawford, Hugh G., 579
Lewis, A. L., 395
Li, Shu-mei W., 402
Lieb, M., 618
Lim, Ho-Seong, 510
Lo Cicero, Adriana M., 486
Luder, Andreas, 553
- Mahbubani, M. H., 597
Mang, Dzung T., 450
Martínez-Romero, Esperanza, 426
McClure, Nicholas C., 366
McKay, Larry L., 539
Miller, Laurence G., 615
Morgan, J. Alun W., 503
Morris, M. E., 395
- Nair, Muraleedharan G., 434
Nesbakken, Truls, 389
Norelli, John L., 486
Novak, Lily Ann, 525
- O'Brien, R. T., 395
Olsen, R. H., 412
Op den Camp, H. J. M., 563
Oremland, Ronald S., 615
- Paerl, Hans W., 473
Palacios, Rafael, 426
Palva, Ilkka, 333, 341
Pasalodos, Eva, 539
Perrin, M. R., 573
Peterkin, Pearl I., 586
Petzel, James P., 539
Pickup, Roger W., 503
Piñero, Daniel, 426
Pogell, Burton M., 440, 610
Presser, Theresa S., 615
- Rasmussen, Jeanette L., 480
Rice, Eugene W., 592
Robbins, Helen Loidl, 349
Rose, J. B., 395
Rouwenhorst, Robert J., 557
Rowland, Sharon S., 440, 610
Ruel, Katia, 374
- Safferman, R. S., 395
Safir, Gene R., 434
Sanford, John C., 480
Saunders, Jon R., 503
Schaub, S. A., 395
Scheffers, W. Alexander, 557
Schesser, Kurt, 553
Segovia, Lorenzo, 426
Seidler, R. J., 412
Selim, Mustafa I., 549
- Shark, Katherine B., 480
Sharpe, Anthony N., 586
Short, K. A., 412
Sibakov, Mervi, 333, 341
Silverstone, Sara E., 535
Simmons, Mary A., 402
Simons, F. H. M., 563
Siqueira, Jose O., 434
Skurnik, Mikael, 389
Smith, Franzine D., 480
Sobsey, M. D., 395
Speedie, Marilyn K., 440, 610
Spencer, Stephen B., 568
Steinberg, Nisan A., 615
Steinmann, Kathleen E., 610
Stotzky, G., 412
Stringfellow, W. T., 618
Sullivan, R., 395
Szewzyk, Regine, 499
- Tierney, J. T., 395
Topisirovic, Ljubisa, 385
- van Belkum, Marco J., 492
Van Der Baan, Adriaan A., 557
van der Drift, C., 563
Van Dijken, Johannes P., 557
Van Griensven, L. J. L. D., 563
Varga, Gabriella A., 469
Venema, Gerard, 492
Viet, Dung Nguyen, 445
Vogels, G. D., 563
Von Tersch, Michael A., 349
von Wright, Atte, 341
- Walmsley, Jean, 622
Ward, O. P., 419
Watson, Barney T., 601
Watson, Kenneth, 359
Weightman, Andrew J., 366
Wellings, F. M., 395
Wiegant, Wim M., 455
Willemot, Claude, 463
Winstanley, Craig, 503
Winter, J. A., 395
- Yongmanitchai, W., 419
Young, L. Y., 450
- Zachara, John M., 402