

FEBS NEWS

Special Issue 1, July 2009



A tribute to Prof. Edward J. Wood

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETIES
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Editorial

Dear Colleagues

As you are aware FEBS lost a dear colleague and friend when the Chair of the FEBS Committee on Education, Ed Wood sadly passed away in December.

The Committee, under the guidance of Acting Chair Gul Guner-Akdogan, decided it would be a fitting tribute to Ed, to collect together all the dedications to Ed that they received, and reprint them here in a special *FEBS News* edition.

This edition starts with the IUBMB & *FEBS News* Obituary, then a report written by Gul on the Memorial Service for Ed held in Leeds in February this year. The dedications mentioned by Gul in her report follow.

In reading these dedications it is clear to see how deeply Ed was respected, loved and how much he will be greatly missed, both personally and professionally within the fields of Biochemistry and Biochemical Education.

Best wishes
Louise

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Questions and enquiries about *FEBS News* should be addressed to Louise McSeveny (louisem@biochem.ucl.ac.uk).

Next issue will be out on w/c **18 September**. Deadline for entries (all types) is **4 September, 2009**.

Acknowledgments

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*Photographs on page 8 appear courtesy of the Vienna 2007 Congress
Photographer: Agentur Dirk Hartung, Fürstehoferstraße 6/9/3, A-1100 Wien*

Obituary—IUBMB

As published in *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education*

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E.J. Wood 1941-2008. A Tribute.

Graham Parslow¹ and Frank Vella²

¹University of Melbourne, Australia. ²University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

On Sunday December 14th, 2008 at age 67 Ed Wood was at home alone when a heart attack suddenly and unexpectedly ended his life. The sadness it engendered in those who knew Ed was enormous, but his was a life that was lived to great purpose. Soft-spoken and unassuming, Ed was treasured by many friends and colleagues around the world. He was indefatigable in advancing Biochemical Education as an activity and generously bestowed his friendship on many. In a world of multiple connections between people Ed achieved a surfeit of connections and an enormous return of affection from those he dealt with. Ed had the energy, given to few, to be a conscientious leader, guide and mentor in all aspects of his personal and professional life. He was always a great correspondent with a sense of humour that illuminated the silliness of the administrative pomp he encountered. His rapidly written, neat handwriting with a slight backward slope was always a welcome sight on incoming letters. Even in the era of electronic mail Ed would make time to send land-mail that conveyed something special to the recipients. Above all Ed was truly modest in his manners; a modesty that his colleagues knew overlaid a gifted man of singular intellect. Ed lived to work and worked to live. In retirement his pace hardly altered except for the set-backs of a heart valve operation and removal of a bowel cancer. These medical events interrupted his jet-setting international travel, but Ed was always looking forward to his next engagement and particularly to helping students and young scientists in developing countries.

Ed was the most accessible of people and yet intensely private. Few people would know that he played the piano and found relaxation by launching into Bach's Toccata and fugue with gusto. Looking at Ed, the urbane Oxford D.Phil. few would deduce his boyhood times of growing up in modest circumstances in regional England as the son of a mechanical engineer. More people knew that he was partial to relaxing with a good meal accompanied by red wine or his beloved Tetley Beer from his adopted Yorkshire. He was particularly fond of travelling with friends to a small country pub on the Yorkshire Dales, just outside Leeds, to have a few convivial pints of Tetley. He also treasured time with his family and was fortunate to have an extended family holiday in Turkey in 2008 with his wife Helen, two sons, three grandchildren and other relatives. Many people are woven into the tapestry of Ed's life as intimate friends and collaborators. Angelo Azzi (IUBMB president) observed that Ed "had the talent of making little distinction between work and play, labour and leisure, information and recreation;

Ed Wood at the FAOBMB conference, Bangkok 2004. Ed travelled to many countries to examine and run workshops. Thailand was a particular favourite with Ed.



he was always doing both at the same time, thus working with Ed was light and rewarding, indeed a joy." There will be acknowledgements of Ed's many associations forthcoming from the University of Leeds and to locate or contribute to those please contact Sue Yeadon in the Dean's Office at Leeds (S.Yeadon@leeds.ac.uk). For Ed's role in biochemical education some landmark associations deserve special mention here.

Ed Wood with a Donald Nicholson animap of ATP synthase. This was one of the many biochemical education tools and activities that Ed promoted through IUBMB booths at international conferences, most recently at the IUBMB meeting in Athens 2008.



When Ed joined the Biochemistry Department at the University of Leeds in 1972 Peter Campbell was the Head of Department. Peter was a singular force in establishing a professional approach to biochemical education within the Biochemical Society (UK), FEBS and the IUB (later IUBMB). Under the auspices of the IUB Peter launched a newsletter in 1973 that rapidly became the journal *Biochemical Education*. In 1979 Ed became Editor in Chief of *Biochemical Education* (now BAMBED) and served in this role for 22 years. For this enormous contribution Bill Whelan summarised Ed's role aptly as; "He was the Ed in *Biochemical Education*." Don and Judy Voet became the Editors in Chief after 2000 and Ed continued as a highly active Associate Editor. Ed was a tireless reader of scientific books and to indicate his enormous capacity to read and pass on →

Obituary—IUBMB Cont/....

his analyses he contributed 43 book reviews to *BAMBED* in the past 6 years, all of which Don Voet described as insightful and well written.

As Ed advanced in his teaching and research career he won great admiration for his undergraduate lecturing and his postgraduate supervision. He also accommodated many visitors to Leeds, including Graham Parslow co-author of this tribute, who spent time working with him on sabbatical leave. Ed served as Head of his Department at Leeds from 1991 to 1996 and was awarded a chair in 1998. Ed was a major contributor to the writing of "Standards for the Ph.D. Degree in the Molecular Biosciences" sponsored by the IUBMB and published in two editions (1989 and 2000). His approach was pragmatic, being more concerned with practical ways of improving teaching, rather than a proponent of any particular educational theory. Even so he was well versed in theories of education and used this knowledge for incisive, but always helpful, refereeing of articles submitted to *Biochemical Education*.

Ed's excellent grounding in theory also informed the summaries that he presented as part of talks and discussions at educational conferences and workshops. Serendipitously Frank Vella (co-author of this tribute) served as the Education Officer of the IUB through the 1980s and a remarkable synergy of purpose took shape whereby numerous countries benefited from biochemical education workshops run by Ed, Frank and Alan Mehler. Ed visited many countries and maintained his ties with them.

The love of travelling stayed with Ed and he was never short of invitations to talk at conferences or to be an external examiner at many universities. His recent roles as chairman of the FEBS Education Group and as editor of the *Biosciences Education e-journal* (BEE-j) meant that his diary of pending engagements was as full as ever when he left us. Ed was a man for all seasons; scholar, author, teacher, researcher, administrator and friend.

Curriculum Vitae: Professor Edward J. Wood, MA, DPhil (Oxon.)

The information below comes from several sources including a retirement statement prepared by Tony Turner of Leeds University.

Professor Wood read Biochemistry at The Queen's College, Oxford, England, then undertook research for a DPhil at The Nuffield Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Oxford. He became a lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry and Physiology at the University of Malta in 1967 and his sons Benjamin and Dominic were born at this time. From 1972 he was associated with the Department of Biochemistry at The University of Leeds, England. During his career he maintained a research group working initially on invertebrate respiratory proteins and

Alan Mehler, Frank Vella and Ed Wood at a 1992 Biochemical Education workshop in Melbourne Australia, convened by Graham



subsequently on the proteins of human skin and their role in skin disease and wound healing.

His work in this area had close associations with the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries, as well as with clinicians. His research output resulted in the publication of over 100 scientific journal papers. At Leeds University he served as the first Dean of Teaching and Learning in biological sciences and also chaired the committee that was responsible for the revision of the Leeds Medical Course to bring it into line with the GMC recommendations. Ed maintained a keen interest in the education and training of biologists and medical scientists. He accepted numerous invitations to speak at international meetings and to organise workshops on curriculum reform and innovations in education including problem-based learning and e-learning. In addition to his role as Editor in Chief of *Biochemical Education* Ed served as Editor in Chief of *Clinical Dermatology: Retinoids and other Treatments* and served on the editorial boards of other journals. He served as a member of the Committee on Education of the IUBMB, as chairman of the UK Biochemical Society's Education Group, and was a member of the Educational Resources Task Force of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). In 2000 Ed became the Director of the Learning & Teaching Support Network for Bioscience, now the Higher Education Academy Centre for Bioscience. He was a Teaching Quality Assessor who travelled to many of the Biochemistry Departments in England and Scotland and he participated in similar schemes internationally.

Ed was prolific in writing and editing student textbooks starting with *Introducing Biochemistry* in 1983. A collaboration with Chris Smith (Manchester) in the 1990s saw the creation of a major series of biochemistry texts that built into a comprehensive treatise, published by Chapman Hall UK. The final collaborative book was *The Biology of Disease* published in 2006 with Nessar Ahmed, Maureen Dawson and Chris Smith. Ed officially retired from the University of Leeds with the title professor-emeritus in 2006.

Obituary — FEBS

As, sadly, many colleagues will be aware, Emeritus Professor Ed Wood, former Professor of Biochemistry, died on 14 December 2008.

Professor Wood was awarded an Open Scholarship to read Biochemistry at The Queen's College, Oxford and went on to complete a DPhil in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Biochemistry in Oxford. Having worked for a period as a research scientist at the Wellcome Research Laboratories in Beckenham on the biochemistry of antibodies (immunoglobulins), he was appointed in 1967 as a Lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry and Physiology at the University of Malta.

Professor Wood came to Leeds as Lecturer in Biochemistry in 1972. He became Senior Lecturer in 1978, was made Reader in 1994, and was promoted to a Chair in Biochemistry in 1998. He served as Head of the Department of Biochemistry from 1991 to 1996.

Throughout his time at Leeds, Ed Wood led a flourishing research group. Initially, he concentrated on investigating respiratory proteins in a variety of invertebrate animals, and made important contributions to the knowledge of the structure and functions of these. This work was considerably facilitated by the laser light scattering technique developed by Ed Wood and his colleagues, in collaboration with the Royal Radar Research Establishment at Malvern, to overcome the considerable challenge of determining molecular weight. This pioneering technique went on to be widely adopted in research and industry in order to measure particle size and distribution. Ed Wood's work on invertebrate respiratory proteins also resulted in the incidental but important discovery of a new class of glycoproteins.

In the early 1980s, Professor Wood turned his attention to the proteins of human skin and their role in skin disease and wound healing. This change of direction was prompted by a desire to undertake research relevant to human tissues and disease processes, and which offered the prospect of diagnostic or therapeutic application. Working in close collaboration with clinical colleagues, and with sections of the pharmaceutical industry, he published extensively and acquired a national and international reputation for his contributions to biomedical knowledge in skin biology, including his work in keratin biochemistry and specifically in the biochemistry of psoriasis. This work provided the basis for evaluating different therapeutic regimes, and also of evaluating the effects of different pharmacological agents, such as retinoids. In order to be able to study human skin cells in detail, Ed Wood developed the technology for growing such cells *in vitro*; this not only made possible basic cell biology experiments but also provided the opportunity to produce reconstructed human skin for grafting onto patients with burns or leg ulcers. The development of a laboratory wound-healing model enabled observation of the behaviour of skin cells during the wound-healing process. Ed Wood's expertise in dermatological re-

search provided the stimulus for a very considerable amount of original work in this field at Leeds. He was a founding member of, and for many years a leading light in, the Interdisciplinary Skin Research Centre in the University. His international standing was shown in the invitations he received to chair sessions at major meetings of bodies such as European Society for Dermatological Research and the International Union of Biochemistry. He also served as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Clinical Dermatology: Retinoids and other treatments*.

Equally, if not more, striking were Professor Wood's contributions to the philosophy and practice of biological education. His scholarship, dedication and innovative and imaginative ideas substantially enhanced the reputation already enjoyed by the Department in this field.

True to his beliefs, Ed Wood co-wrote or edited a substantial number of textbooks, including *Introducing Biochemistry* (1982) – a volume credited with attracting many sixth-formers to a biochemistry degree course; *Practical biochemistry for colleges* (1989); *Biochemistry for the medical sciences* (1994); and *Biology of Disease* (2006). This was in addition to a series of influential journal articles, booklets and videotapes expounding his approach to biomedical education. He was one of an international team of four which, in 1989, produced *Standards for the PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* for the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. This treatise on the education and training of research biochemists had a significant international impact. Ed Wood's other publications include the production, with a collaborator, of five volumes of *Molecular and Cell Biochemistry* (1991-92); these volumes were well-received and constitute a major achievement.

In 2000, Ed Wood became Director of the Learning and Teaching Support Network for Bioscience, later the Centre for Bioscience, Higher Education Academy. He retired from his Chair in 2006.

1st published in FEBS News January 2009. Written by Prof. Anthony Turner, Institute of Molecular & Cellular Biology, University of Leeds.



Ed at the FEBS Booth Athens 2008

Memorial for Ed — An Overview

Leeds University, February 3, 2009

Gul Guner-Akdogan, Acting Chair of FEBS Education Committee

It was an honor for me to attend, in the name of FEBS Education Committee, the Memorial Gathering for Prof. Ed Wood, late Chair of FEBS Education Committee.

The Memorial was organised by Ed's family and the University of Leeds, on February 3rd, 2009 which was his 68th anniversary. The ceremony was organised with great care. There were around 120 participants. Firstly, Ben Wood, Ed's elder son, made a welcome talk and described Ed as a "Father" and a "Human Being". He added that the whole family was happy to have made their last extended vacation with Ed in Turkey, a country which Ed liked so much. Lin Elliott and I were invited by Helen Wood to the family table. Following an elegant lunch, Ben Wood gave the chair to people who wanted to talk about Ed.

I believe that a summary of this important event will be useful from the point of view of sharing, with the biochemical community, the characteristics of Ed as a colleague, as a friend and as a human being.

The first speaker was Prof. Donald Nicholson, who knew Ed since a very long time. He described Ed's different features; Ed had taken wholeheartedly the responsibility of displaying Nicholson's metabolic pathways in FEBS and IUBMB Meetings. We learned that the red tie which Prof. Nicholson wore on that occasion was a gift that Ed had brought to him from Thailand.

Secondly, I was invited to talk in the name of FEBS Education Committee. It was an honorable and at the same time, a difficult task. I read the messages of thankfulness, recognition, and respect from:

- FEBS Education Committee, of which he was the First Chair (*Page 7*);
- VOET & VOET, the editors of BAMBED, the journal which followed Biochemical Education, of which Ed was the Editor for over 20 years (*Page 9*);
- Turkish Biochemical Society (*Page 12*), with which Ed was closely associated over long years;
- Bulgarian Biochemical Society (*Page 13*), which highly esteemed Ed Wood in many ways, and;
- Sofia University, for which Ed had planned and organised the Biochemistry Education Workshop (*Page 13*), which he could not attend, due to health reasons.

Then, Ed's second son, Dominic Wood read the warm letter from Prof. Frank Vella who was a colleague and a good friend of Ed for long years. This had a more informal tone than the Tribute which appeared in BAMBED. *Page 8*

Briefly, in this message, Frank tells that he knew Ed for more than three decades; that a "brotherly" relationship had formed between them, besides the "scientific collaboration", and that, during Frank Vella's Chairship of IUBMB Education Committee which lasted nine years, and between the years 1985-1992, they organised together Biochemistry Education Workshops in the following cities: Karachi, Porto, Manila, Dubrovnik, Thessaloniki, Ankara, Kuala Lumpur, Cali and Lima, Bucarest, Melbourne, and Izmir. During these workshops, an intense sharing of information and experience occurred and colleague and friendship ties were formed. The workshop reports written and shared with the entire biochemistry community, were, in my opinion, facts which will always be important from the aspect of "History of Biochemical Education".

J Cunliffe, a dermatology professor in the Medical School of Leeds University, who was Ed's collaborator in the dermatological biochemistry field, talked about Ed's scientific merits, his role on the research team, and about their multidisciplinary work which ended in fruitful results.

The final talk was done by Prof. Harry Hassall (*Page 10*) who had worked with Ed in the Department of Biochemistry, University of Leeds, for long years and who, after retirement in 1991, had handed over the Chairship to Ed. With his overtaking style, he shared with the audience the following:

Prof. Hassall had known Ed when he was around 30; throughout long years, Ed had never lost his motivation, optimism, and work-capacity; he always had a future to plan and the serious health problems and operations were esteemed as minor, thus rendering the "Loss" as an unpredictable reality. Ed's loss was as if "the light was turned-off and gone suddenly" however, in retrospect, the warning signs were there. The participants were holding their breath. Prof. Hassall concluded his talk by reading a poem by Primo Levi, which he did not know if Ed knew, but which he thought it reflected the feeling Ed had for his friends and numerous people whom he met throughout his life. (*Page 10*).



Ed, Jason Perret (Brussels - Ed Com), Jean-Pierre Kraehenbuhl (Lausanne, Switzerland - speaker at Ed Com Symp), Graham and Di Parslow (Melbourne)

FEBS Dedication

As presented to Mrs Helen WOOD, Mr and Mrs Benjamin WOOD, Mr and Mrs Dominic WOOD

3 February, 2009

We, as FEBS Education Committee members, were deeply saddened to learn that Prof. Edward J WOOD passed away on 14 December, 2008. Please accept our deepest condolences.

Prof. Edward J. WOOD was elected as the first Chair of FEBS Education Committee in 2006. We had the privilege of working with him since 2001, as part of the FEBS Working Group on Teaching Biochemistry; some of us had known him before, since long years.

It was a great honor and pleasure for us to work with Ed. His deep knowledge and expertise in the field of "Biochemical Education", his creativity, his dedication to his work, his sincere and friendly attitude deeply impressed us. Ed shared his knowledge and experience generously with others, not only with us and with the FEBS community, but with the whole world. He gave outstanding performances in the numerous workshops and courses that he conducted or conferences that he gave on biochemical education or on his scientific research. His successful Editorship of the IUB(MB) journal of Biochemical Education for over twenty years shows very well his dedication to the work he undertook.

Ed was a respected and highly esteemed scientist and an outstanding personality in the biochemistry world. He was a deeply respected colleague and a very good friend.

We have Ed's legacy on "the science of Biochemical Education". This legacy we will uphold and advance.

Gul Guner, Acting Chair of FEBS Education Committee

Jean Wallach, Chair of FEBS (Former) Working Group on Teaching Biochemistry

Keith Elliott, Peter Ott, Jason Perret, Jose Villalain, Pilar Roca, Pedro Moraidas-Ferreira, Miguel Castanho, Karmela Barisic, Constantin Drainas, Past and present members of FEBS Education Committee and FEBS (Former) Working Group on Teaching Biochemistry

Israel Pecht, Secretary General, FEBS
Iain Mowbray, Treasurer, FEBS



Ed and Gul at the Journals reception Vienna Congress 2008



With Gul & Student, CV Clinic Vienna 2007 above and with Keith Elliott & Student, CV Clinic Athens 2008 below



IUBMB Dedication

Letter from Prof. Frank Vella read by Dominic Wood at the Memorial Gathering for Ed Wood, February 3rd, 2009

As Chair of the Committee on Education for a nine-year period, I had committed myself to pursuing the organization of workshops, that Peter had started, in developing countries, and to giving the journal Biochemical Education the wholehearted support of that Committee. In this way the journal would assume a major role in the educational objectives of the IUB.



Invitations to hold workshops started to reach me quickly and it was my responsibility to do the organizational aspects, to define the format and to choose the team to conduct each workshop. The trio formed the core of the team for workshops in Karachi (1985); Porto (1986); Manila (1987); Dubrovnik,

Thessaloniki, and Ankara, a consecutive series in the same trip, as an economy measure, in 1988 which also laid the foundation for the first Standards recommendations; Kuala Lumpur (1988); Cali and Lima, in the same trip, also as an economy measure, in 1990; Bucharest (1991); Izmir (1991) and Melbourne (1992). Since many of these trips were long ones for me, and the workshops were purposely discussion-based (although sometimes they also had a literature-based refresher course component), I often found my mind buckling under the effect of jet lag. I could count on Ed realizing this when it happened, by a nod or a look that I gave to him. Ed never failed to take the reins until I could reconstitute my mind and was ready to come back into the discussions. Each workshop involved the quick writing of a detailed report with recommendations and the approval of the other members of the team before submission to the Executive Committee and to the workshop hosts and local organizers. All this at a time when regular airmail was the major medium of communication! Ed often found his own funds (frequently from the British Council, occasionally from his university) to help stretch the Committee's rather limited budget and would bring with him books and copies of Biochemical Education to give to participants at these events.

He formed friendships quickly with participants and followed them up after he returned home. Ed would also prepare synopses of each report for publication in his journal. Everything depended on commitment and speed, so that a same-day system of receipt of /response to mail became expected and was usually delivered. Ed went on to organize his own workshops in a variety of other countries and planned to spend his retirement helping developing countries in a

variety of ways.

I have already mentioned Standards recommendations. These consisted, firstly, of Standards for the Ph.D. Degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, published in 1989, on behalf of the Committee on Education and with the approval of the Executive Committee of IUB. This grew out of the discussions the trio held in their free time during the trips to Dubrovnik, Thessaloniki and Ankara, which were then elaborated and commented on by a wide group of the leaders of the biochemical community. They were the only such standards for the Ph.D. degree then available and were well received. Secondly, almost a decade later, when I was retired from the University of Saskatchewan, was no longer involved in the Committee of Education but was General Secretary of IUBMB, I was invited by the President to undertake an updating of those Standards and, because of the interdisciplinarity that had occurred in the meantime between the biological sciences, to make the Standards generic. With the enthusiastic support and help of Alan and Ed, who appreciated this need and agreed once more to form the core for the undertaking, publication of Standards for the Ph.D. Degree in the Molecular Biosciences occurred in 2000. While the first Standards (3000 copies) were produced in the pre-electronic age, the second Standards were produced in the electronic age and involved an international group of about 120 consultants from a broad range of biosciences. These were widely distributed (15,000 copies), appeared in three regular publications of IUBMB, and also on the IUBMB website. Both versions have been translated into Chinese, Japanese and Spanish. Without the constant, warm and patient support of Ed and Alan, I would not have had the courage to undertake either of these projects.

Time does not permit that I go into more detail. To say that my communications with Ed during this period were vigorous would be an understatement. By airmail, postcard, telephone, fax, and e-mail, and at scientific meetings, we almost became each other's alter ego, responding to and even anticipating each other's needs. Only in that way could we have done what we did. Ed and I often exchanged books (novels, travelogues) that we had read and that we knew the other would enjoy, and he regularly airmailed to me first day covers of British stamps. He sent me cuttings from British newspapers, postcards every time he travelled (I have at least ten on my desk from the past year), →



and digital photos of his grandchildren (Jessica, Douglas, and Frances) of whom he was especially proud. He kept me informed of his comings and goings. I kept him similarly informed so that we were in effect members of each other's family.

The last two times I met Ed were in 2005. The first was in the spring in Malta when he was accompanied by Helen. We met at the office of Willie Bannister, a mutual friend at the University and Ed's first academic boss, then drove to St Paul Bay for lunch at a renowned fish restaurant where we enjoyed a nice mixed platter and a bottle of Italian wine. On the way back to my hotel in Sliema, I asked Ed to stop the car at Salina Bay, about a kilometer away from the hotel they were staying at, so that I could show them a set of Punic tombs in a field. Ed was delighted. I later learned that he and Helen went again to those tombs on their way back to their hotel. The second was at the FEBS meeting in Budapest when IUBMB was celebrating its 50th anniversary. Both were very happy events for us both.

The second was at the FEBS meeting in Budapest when IUBMB was celebrating its 50th anniversary. Both were very happy events for us both.

Ed was a quiet and unassuming, but committed and very effective, person. In fact he was a real treasure. He knew well, and appreciated, love, grace and gratitude. His sudden, solitary but tranquil death, has left large holes in those who treasured him and loved him.

Rest in peace, dear brother.



Ed with his grandchildren Jessica, Douglas and Frances, taken last July while the whole family were on holiday in Kalkan, Turkey

Francis Vella M.D., M.A.(Oxon), Ph.D., D.Sc.(hon, Malta)
Retired Professor of Biochemistry, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada (1965-1996)
General Secretary , IUBMB (1998 -2000)
Chair , Committee on Education, IUB(1982-1991)
Rhodes Scholar for Malta, 1952 (St John's College, Oxford)

Donald and Judith Voet Dedication

Presented at Ed's Memorial Service



Ed Wood's death on December 14th was an enormous loss, both personally and professionally. Ed was almost certainly the most visible proponent of education in biochemistry and molecular biology throughout the world. In the year 2000, when we took over the editorship of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education or BAMBED —

then called Biochemical Education — Ed had been its editor for the previous 22 years. Although most people in his position would have retired completely from the job,

Ed continued, until his death, as an Associate Editor of BAMBED, a position in which he continued offering astute advice and reviewing manuscripts. Ed was a tireless reader and reviewer of books on biochemistry. It was a rare issue of BAMBED that did not contain one or two book reviews, usually unsolicited, by Ed. Indeed, in the six-year period between 2002 and 2008, Ed contributed 43 book reviews to BAMBED.

Although we lived an ocean apart, we saw Ed once or twice a year. He often attended meeting in the USA as well as around the world where he was usually the keynote speaker on educational matters. These talks were always insightful and inspiring. Although Ed was not a proponent of any particular method of education, he was expert on all of them and therefore could provide sage counsel on both the content and the methods of biochemical education. His parting has left a tremendous void in the world of biochemical education. We will miss his valued friendship and advice.

Prof. Harry Hassall Dedication

Presented at Ed's Memorial Service

Even though we met (with Ed) as colleagues and I was his Head of Dept for six years before he took over from me, our relationship was a friendship of mutual respect rather than just a professional association.

It is also difficult to add anything new to what has already been written about Ed. The tributes are impressive, fulsome but accurate.

Graham Parslow described me in an email to the University (in a very Australian way) as "Ed's absolute best mate for having a beer with". I was quite flattered by that, but it is probably true, and what it also means is that I probably knew him when he was at his most relaxed. Since leaving the University (in 1991) he was my main contact in Leeds and we saw each other regularly on my frequent visits there, almost on a daily basis since he retired. He supplied me with a constant stream of paper cuttings and items from the press which he knew would be of common interest, and these were followed up almost on a weekly basis with telephone calls when I was in Scotland.

I suppose that as with most continuous friendships, in your mind's eye, people stay at the age at which you first met them. For that same reason, your parents were always old, even though they might have been in their late twenties when you first were aware of them, and your children are always young even when they are approaching 50! So it was with Ed; he always seemed about 30. With the enthusiasm, optimism and capacity for work that one associates with that age. There was always a long future to be planned for. Rather serious illnesses and operations were treated as if they were



minor, irritating afflictions and - as a result - his death was all the more unexpected. It came with the same finality and suddenness as switching off a light even though, in retrospect, the warning signs were there.

So what was he really like? We all know that his output was prodigious: Teaching, Research, Administration, Writing, Editing. Many people can handle one, two or three of these but rarely all of them. And he still had time for IUB, FEBS. and the Biochemical Society and all their associated committees.

He was, on first knowing, a rather private person, perhaps even a little reserved. However he enjoyed contact with people and was extremely loyal to his friends. He could disagree without falling out and rarely if ever did I hear him express a bad word about anyone. He was a modest man. He hardly ever referred to his own achievements and it was only slowly, usually over the second pint of Tetleys, that you found that he was being promoted to a Chair, that he was on the Universities' Teaching Assessment Panel, External Examiner at Edinburgh, Oxford etc, or that he was the Peter Campbell Lecturer for 2008 (The last of these was singularly appropriate since it was Peter who appointed him to Leeds in 1972).

He was a committed family man, protective of his two boys Ben and Dom when they were young and proud of their achievements in later life.



He took enormous pleasure in their marriages to Nicola and Joanne, respectively, and was as near as he got to heaven when the grandchildren arrived. He took comfort in his relatively recent marriage to Helen and it is especially sad that they have been robbed of the future that they planned together. In recent years he spoke more about his sisters than he had done in the past.

So what did he feel strongly about? On the plus side, undoubtedly it can be defined as "Education", consisting as it does of the duality of Research and Teaching. Top of the list was Education in developing countries. He undoubtedly saw this as really the only salvation to the world's ills as well as the best way of delivering long-term aid.

And what got him angry? Well, in a nutshell, he was a Scientist. Above all else, a Scientist believes implicitly in the Scientific Method. Ed hated bad science. He was committed to evidenced based (molecular) medicine and could get the nearest he got to being angry when confronted with the claims of homeopaths, aromatherapists, crystal energists, and the like. He was angry about the dishonesty of the MMR debate, the pronouncements of the anti GM lobby and even the inflated claims for "Organic" food. He was depressed by the fact that 150 years after the publication of Darwin's Origin of Species that we should have to argue all over again about the relative merits of Creationism and its offspring, Intelligent Design, and that even in this country, Darwin's birthplace, about half the adult population was either unwilling or unable to accept the arguments for Evolution.

Finally, he had a wicked sense of humour. Many were the anecdotes that we had collected, usually about the trials and tribulations of teaching students. However, it is probably better not to commit these to print even though they were usually sympathetic about their subjects.



With Peter Ott, Education Committee meeting dinner

"To My Friends"

Dear friends, and here I say 'friends' in the broad sense of the word:

Wife, sister, associates, relatives, schoolmates, men and women –

People seen only once, or frequented all my life: provided that between us,

for at least a moment, a bond was formed, a well-defined chord.

I speak for you, companions on a journey, through thick and thin on a

challenging road, and also for you who have lost Soul, Courage, the Will to Live.

Or no one or someone, or perhaps only one person, or (just) you who are reading (hearing) me;

Remember the time before the wax hardened, when each of us was like a seal.

Each of us bears the imprint of friends met along the way;

In each the trace of each.
For good or evil, in wisdom or in folly. Each stamped by each.

Now that time presses urgently,
and the tasks are finished,
To all of you the modest wish
That the Autumn may be long and mild.

Primo Levi, Dec. 1985

With Vicente Rubio (Director of the Biomedical Institute, Valencia)



(I finished by reading the piece written by Primo Levi - I said that we had never discussed this, I did not know whether or not he was aware of it (but he probably was) but that I was absolutely confident that this was how he saw his many friends and contacts that he had established across the world.

Turkish Biochemical Society Dedication

Tribute: Prof. Ed Wood (1941-2008) A Colleague and a Dear Friend to Turkish Biochemists

Turkish Biochemical Society first met Ed (with Frank Vella and Alan Mehler) at the IUBMB Workshop on Biochemistry Education, organized in Ankara in 1987, under the auspices of Turkish Biochemical Society.

During the following 20 years, Ed was an associate member of Turkish Biochemical Society and a real friend for Turkish Biochemists. He provided significant and sincere input at the scientific and educational meetings of Turkish Biochemical Society. He served on the Editorial Board of Turkish Journal of Biochemistry and refereed numerous manuscripts submitted to this journal. Not only did he do the reviewing for the Journal, but was always ready to do it also for his colleagues who asked him. He was always available when needed. He gave continuous support to the young biochemists. A considerable number of biochemists from Turkey were accepted at Ed's lab for short or long-term visits, to carry out their doctoral or post-doctoral studies.

Ed had a key role and responsibility in the Turkish Biochemistry Congress which took place in Antalya in 1989, in the IUBMB Workshop which took place in Izmir in 1991, in the Izmir and Istanbul Biochemistry Congresses in the following years, in the "Basic Medical Sciences Education" Symposium in Ankara in 1994, in the "Biochemistry Education in the 2000's" Symposium at METU, Ankara in 1998, in the Biochemical Education Workshop in Izmir in 2001, in the Molecular Cancer Congress organized by Uludag University Department of Biochemistry in 2007, in several Scientific Meetings in Dokuz Eylul University and Education Workshops organized in Izmir, Ankara, and Mersin in 2007-2008 by Dokuz Eylul University Health Sciences Institute, Mersin University Health Sciences Institute and Turkish Medical Education Congress.

We also witnessed Ed's valuable contribution to the Educational Activities of FEBS 2002 (Organized by Israeli Biochemical Society) and FEBS 2006 (Organized by Turkish Biochemical Society), which both took place in Istanbul.

Since 2001, Ed worked on FEBS Educational activities. He worked as members of FEBS Working Group on Teaching Biochemistry. In 2006, FEBS Council which convened during Istanbul Congress took the historical decision to transform this Group into "FEBS Education Committee". At the same Council Meeting, Ed was elected as Chair of the Committee. Prof. Jean Wallach (Lyon) and Gül Güner Akdoğan (Dokuz Eylul, Izmir) were elected as members.



Ed Wood with (from left to right) Mine Yucesoy-Doluca, Mural Ozgoren and Gul Guner-Akdogan

Ed was the author or co-author of a number of biochemistry books. Among these, Biochemistry for Medical Sciences (Higgins, Turner and Wood -1994) was translated into many languages, including Turkish (by Gül Güner). Ed has written numerous educational articles, booklets, brochures, book-reviews, and prepared educational videotapes. He was a member of the team working on the "PhD Standards in Biochemistry (1989) and later, "PhD Standards in the Biomolecular Sciences" (2000), solicited by IUBMB. This was an important milestone in the training of PhD's and received extensive recognition throughout the world, as well as in Turkey.

Prof. Ed Wood retired from the Department of Biochemistry, University of Leeds, in 2006. For Ed, his retirement was as busy as before, if not more. He continued to work on an intense program of educational activities, including those of FEBS Education Committee. He also served on the Editorial Board of BAMBED. During this time, he participated in a great number of educational activities in Turkey.

A star dimmed away from the biochemistry community.

Prof. Ed Wood will always be remembered by his Family, Friends, and the Biochemists all over the world, as well as in Turkey, by his deep knowledge and expertise in biochemistry, his creativity, his ever-lasting productivity, sharingness, modesty, warm and sincere personality, honest character and human values.

With deep respect, to the memory of our Colleague and Friend.

Turkish Biochemical Society
(This article is an excerpt from Gul Guner-Akdogan's "Tribute to Ed Wood", in press, Turkish Journal of Biochemistry, June 2009).

Centre for Bioscience, University of Leeds Dedication

I have known and worked with Ed over the last 7 years since joining LTSN Bioscience (now the Centre for Bioscience). In my early days at the Centre we worked together on the development of an electronic *Compendium of Practicals* – Ed offered guidance and support to me on how to go about encouraging individuals to share their teaching resources, and as always, led by example in contributing a selection of his own practicals. I will remember Ed as someone who was passionate about both research (and publishing) and teaching. As Director/Co-Director of the Centre he regularly sought opportunities to share the good work of others and promote awareness and understanding of the work of the Centre, especially when his work took him overseas (as it often did). The Subject Centre is highly valued and respected not just by his biochemistry colleagues but by bioscientists spanning many disciplines, and much of that is down to Ed's leadership and hard work, and his vision in establishing and building the Centre in the LTSN days.

In more recent times, he brought considerable experience, expertise, a good knowledge of grammar and a pragmatic approach to his role as Editor-in-Chief of our journal, *Bioscience Education*. It is not very long since we last met with Ed to discuss the next issue of *Bioscience Education* and future plans for the journal – I find it hard to believe he won't be popping into the office and plonking himself down at the nearest available desk to open his mail. We are well on the way to publication of a printed compilation of Volumes 1 to 8 of the journal – I

think Ed would have approved and smiled at our latest plans to dedicate this publication to him.

Ed was a fairly private man but he was also sociable and always made time for others. He always joined in Centre Xmas meals and would go out with us for lunch for other occasions – I will remember his love of red wine and his calls of "pass the chips". In comparison with many academics, Ed could be quiet and unassuming and he was never one to make a fuss. He had a good sense of fun (delighting in bringing us unknown foods from far-off lands – we're still not sure what some of the things were!). He never took himself or others too seriously, preferring to concentrate on getting the job done. On his last visit to the office I was touched by his kindness – I have only recently been appointed as the Centre Manager and despite his recent illness he invited me to talk to him if he could ever be of assistance in his capacity as former director – an offer which I greatly appreciated – such gestures were typical of Ed.

All of us at the Centre were shocked and saddened at his untimely death and we (and many, many others) will miss him greatly. The Centre is one of many legacies he leaves behind and we shall do all we can to ensure we do him proud and make the most of the foundations he laid.

Jackie Wilson
Centre for Bioscience

Enquiry from the Centre for Bioscience, University of Leeds

Dear Helen, Ben and Dominic,

Given Ed's role as a founder of the Centre for Bioscience, staff at the Centre have been thinking about way(s) in which the Centre might directly commemorate his considerable commitment and contributions to learning and teaching development in the biosciences. An idea we identified recently with our Advisory Board was that we might name our Teaching Award after Ed. As his nearest and dearest, we wanted to consult you and hopefully gain your approval before going any further.

By way of background:

This year is the first year the Centre for Bioscience has offered a teaching award. The national award is open to UK bioscience lecturers and is intended to recognise outstanding practice in learning and teaching in the biosciences. Application is by self-nomination and the process involves the short-listed individuals (6 this year) working with a member of Centre staff over the academic year to create a case study which captures an aspect of their teaching practice and the learning experience this provides for their students (we undertake student questionnaires and focus groups to feed in to the process). The resulting case studies (and evaluator comments) are used as the basis for identifying a single winner and are

then published on our website and in print as examples of good practice and food for thought for other bioscience learning and teaching professionals. We have identified our first winner who will be presented with their certificate and an award of £500 next week at the conference dinner of our national learning and teaching conference.

Our proposal is to rename our annual award for bioscience teaching as the 'Ed Wood Teaching Award' in Ed's memory and honour, and I would welcome your reactions to our proposal.

The Wood family gave the proposal its full support.



Medical University Sofia Dedication

Dear Mrs Helen Wood, Mr and Mrs Benjamin Wood,
Mr and Mrs Dominic Wood

On behalf of the Medical University of Sofia, we wish to express our sincerest condolences. We are very sorry that Professor Edward Wood has gone so unexpectedly.

He was so much respected and liked in the scientific community and he will be greatly missed by all of us. His kind smile, his good spirit, his scientific papers, books, textbooks and all he has created will be always with us.

We shall remember his professionalism, creative positive energy and excellent lectures' skills. We liked his open friendly manners, enthusiasm and elegant style of expression.

As chairman of the Education Committee of FEBS he has contributed to a better communication between FEBS and the Bulgarian Biochemistry teachers. He has facilitated the implementation of innovative and useful educational technologies as problem based learning (PBL) and e-learning. His contribution for assessing the quality of higher and postgraduate education is great. His splendid idea to organise the Workshop "Education in Biochemistry" (16-17/10/2008) was his own song.

Sincerely Yours

Professor G. Kossekova
Medical University—Sofia Local Coordinator of the workshop "education in Biochemistry"

Associate professor A. Alexeev, Vice Rector and Secretary General, medical University Sofia.

Bulgarian Biochemical Society Dedication

Prof. Ed Wood sadly passed away. As a chair of Education committee he visited Bulgaria in 2007 as a member of WOGSEE group. It was a great pleasure to meet him and to have a very useful discussion on the new approaches in teaching biochemistry in different universities. As a chairman of Education committee he helped us in the organization of round table discussion on the innovation approaches in enhancing student learning in Biochemistry. Unfortunately he was not able to come again to Sofia and to join this very useful for all of the participants meeting.

We are sure he will be missed not only from his family but also from the whole European biochemists which had opportunity to meet him.

President of BBBS, Prof. Diana Petkova
Secretary of BBBS, Prof. Genoveva Nacheva



Message Board

These messages of condolence were received by Keith Elliott via email

José Villalain (Spain)

Ed will be missed, not only from us, but also from all the science people around the world. We have learned so many things from him My sincere condolences to all his family.

Sue Assinder (Liverpool)

I held Ed in great affection dating back to the time when he was external examiner for us in Bangor. He was a lovely guy with a wonderful dry sense of humour, an excellent rapport with students and of course a much respected scientist. On a personal level, he has been enormously supportive of me and my career in recent years and I will miss him as a friend, colleague and mentor.

Kevan Gartland (Glasgow Caledonian, Chair of Centre for Bioscience Advisory Panel)

He will be greatly missed by science educators and bioscientists all over the world, which is an indication of the impact Ed's working life had on us all and the respect this generated.

Miguel Castanho (Portugal)

Ed was most respected in Portugal for his work in several occasions. We are all sad about this. Please express our condolences and grief to his family.

Message Board

Michael Kelly (Southampton, Director, Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies)

I am very sorry to hear of his passing. I remember him very clearly from the early years of the LTSN Subject Centre network, in which we were both Directors – he of Bioscience and I of Languages. I appreciated his gentle sense of humour and his tranquil way of seeing round difficulties. I missed him when he stepped down as Director and I know his continuing support and his wisdom will be badly missed.

Clive Robertson (Oxford Brookes)

Ed's colleagues at the Higher Education Academy's Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism Network send their sincere condolences to his family, friends and those who worked with him in the Biosciences Subject Centre. Ed personified all that was good about the Learning and Teaching Support Network (LTSN) and is a strength of the Academy; collegiality and support for colleagues as well as the highest professional standards. We appreciate the help, advice and support he gave us and will miss his good counsel.

Terry McAndrew (Leeds)

I have known Ed a long time while working in the University of Leeds and more only recently, (for the last 8 years) as a colleague in the Centre for Bioscience subject centre - formerly the LTSN Bioscience Subject Centre. I have worked closest with him while we produced the Centre's e-Journal; 'Bioscience Education', which was close to Ed's heart as it enabled hard working academics to have a publishing outlet for all their innovative and interesting teaching methods to improve the lot of both the academic and the student. I was his 'technical fixer' and online publisher while he was Editor-in-Chief.

Ed had a very realistic and pragmatic approach to each task and his robust humour was always fun. He had little time for too much political correctness and he enjoyed his plain-speaking when academia thought itself too important at times. We often cut out the rubbish and just got on with the job. He loved his discipline and knew how difficult it was to teach but saw great opportunities with all the technologies becoming available. Our Centre has been a success because of its sensible approaches which he inspired.

I remember how he occasionally brought back various delicacies from his many foreign travels to challenge the office palette. What was the point in doing something ordinary and predictable? We would spend a while trying to work out what it might taste like before plucking up the courage to have a go. Sometimes it was like those 'every flavour beans' in Harry Potter. Their shape should have given their properties away but we were up for the challenge.

Ed as he was an approachable academic who was also a kind man. One you could talk with at many levels and feel comfortable with while doing so. His loss has been a shock to us all and we will miss him.

David Coates (Bradford, ex-Leeds)

Ed was a junior member of staff in Biochemistry when I was a student in Leeds: when I went back, some years later, he was nothing but helpful and supportive, especially as I tried to move the learning and teaching in Biology forward while he was Pro-Dean, when he gave me both good advice and useful leverage! As Head of Biology, and in an environment where we were trying to bring a large Faculty together, his support was always valuable and well given, even more so in working with the Heads of Biology and the LTSN as was, now the HEA Biosciences. I will miss Ed: I didn't know him as a close friend, but as a colleague and friend, he was world beating.

Peter Ott (Switzerland)

I was privileged to have known Ed ever since we started to collaborate within the FEBS Education Group and Committee and have not only admired his professional competence but have also appreciated his personal amicability and his sense of humour.

Jason Perret (Belgium)

I sadly read this mail. I had great respect for Ed and have learned much from the little I had the opportunity of working with him. Indeed, he will be sadly missed. Please extend my condolences to his family.

Ganka Kossekova (Bulgaria)

I am deeply sorry to hear that Ed has gone, I hope to a better world. Please accept my sincerest condolences. He was so much respected and liked in the scientific community, and he will be greatly missed by all of us. His kind smile, his good spirit, his books and all he has created will be always with us.