

EDITORIAL

Professor Tom Pitt Ford – a friend and colleague

As has been reported previously in the *International Endodontic Journal*, Tom Pitt Ford, Professor of Endodontology at King's College London, UK died on Sunday 17, August 2008.

This special issue of the *International Endodontic Journal* provides an opportunity for the endodontic community to celebrate the professional life of Tom and to remember his intellectual contribution to the development of the speciality through his research and other scholarly activities.

Included in this issue are tributes from several colleagues and friends. Dag Ørtsavik has provided an overview of the contribution Tom made to research in Endodontology. Jack Rowe, his former Head of Department at Guy's Dental Hospital and School, has provided an insight into the early formative years of Tom's career whilst Nick Chandler has reflected on his relationship with Tom, first as an undergraduate student, then as a PhD student and finally as a friend and colleague. Finally, we have included several key articles published by Tom together with a commentary from a co-author who has reflected on the background and relevance of the work that led to the publication. I thank all the contributors for their personal reflections of Tom and their insight into his career.

Uniquely, Tom was elected twice as President of the British Endodontic Society. Indeed, Tom was a Council member of the BES for many years and his wisdom and political insight were invaluable as the society developed to become one of the largest and most influential specialist societies in the UK. Tom also contributed to the work of the European Society of Endodontology where he held the honorary position of Editor for many

years and was a member of its Executive Board. He also chaired the working group that developed the 'Quality guidelines for endodontic treatment: consensus report of the European Society of Endodontology' that was published in the *International Endodontic Journal* initially in 1994 and then revised in 2006. This contribution to the management and direction of UK and European Endodontology will have an impact for many years and is a fitting legacy of his professional career.

Tom was Editor of the *International Endodontic Journal* from 1982 to 1991. He took over the position from Fred Harty at a relatively tender age and immediately made improvements to both the format and content. As a result of these changes, the *IEJ* quickly established itself as one of the most successful scientific endodontic journals in the world. During this time his meticulous attention to detail was a great advantage and his editorial rigour was a major reason why the *IEJ* improved its reputation and impact.

Clearly, Tom was a remarkable individual and one who made a major and enduring contribution to the dental profession, to clinical practice as well as to Endodontology. His legacy must be his outstanding and world-leading research and his mentorship of young research workers who have continued to pursue careers in Endodontology and make significant contributions to the discipline.

I would like to thank Elsevier Publications for their kind permission to republish three articles that appeared originally in the *Journal of Endodontics* and the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*, and Wiley-Blackwell for their permission to republish two articles that appeared originally in the *International Endodontic Journal*.

Paul MH Dummer
Editor-in-Chief

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