OBITUARY


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Obituary

Michael R Neuman
25 November 1938–17 February 2016

It is with great sadness that the Editorial board of *Physiological Measurement* reports the passing of its former Editor-in-chief, Michael R Neuman MD, PhD. All that worked with him on the journal, and in the field in general, enjoyed working with him immensely and he will be sorely missed. Mike faithfully served the journal as Editor, Board member and latterly International Advisory member for almost 20 years and in that time advised us through times of great change. His great breadth and depth of knowledge is almost unrivalled and he leaves an un-fillable hole in our boards.

One of Mike’s favorite *Physiological Measurement* stories concerned his interview for the position of Editor, or Honorary Editor as it was then. During the telephone interview, Mike

Michael R Neuman at the 2015 edition of the IEEE EMBC meeting, promoting the newly launched journal BPEX, of which he was also a board member.
was asked what he would do to improve the Impact Factor of the journal. His answer was that he would publish a bad paper, his logic of course being that a bad paper would be cited greatly in all of the follow-up work either commenting on it or disproving it. This answer was met with a few moments of stunned silence before laughter ensued. Needless to say, Mike was offered the job despite his tongue-in-cheek idea to improve the Impact Factor.

This dig at the Impact Factor system typified Mike’s wry sense of humor that pervaded all of our dealings on the board. He will be sadly missed by the board and by the community but he has left behind a legacy to the profession that will endure.

Mike’s colleague and friend Professor John G Webser was kind enough to write a few words to help us understand Mike’s impact on the field and on those around him and these words are a fitting way to end.

In a lunch line at an IEEE EMBS Conference in Philadelphia about 1972 I met Michael Neuman and several other academic biomedical engineers (BMEs). We lunched together and moaned that there was no suitable text to teach medical instrumentation. We agreed to meet in my room that evening, and argued for 2 hours about chapter titles that were agreeable to all. Then we each selected the chapters we would like to write. Mike wrote three chapters for our much-used text: Medical Instrumentation: application and design. In addition to his 248 publications, Mike went on to perform exceptional leadership for BME.


Mike was also an exceptional friend. We would go to London for the annual editorial meeting of Physiological Measurement. Afterword with his wife Judy and my wife Nancy we explored the culture of Reims and Brugge, another year Stuttgart and Munich, and another year enjoyed a U-drive canal boat near Birmingham.

Along with Stuart and Claire Meldrum we visited Mike’s home in Houghton, Michigan, USA where he and Judy kept three ponies and eight goats as pets, toured copper mines, and took a scenic side boat trip to Isle Royale.

Mike lived a rich and much accomplished life. We will surely miss him.

John G Webster