

Peter Wayne Mullen, 1944 – 2021

Peter died suddenly, aged 76 years, on February 23rd 2021 in his native Nova Scotia leaving his wife, Susan, and his four children.

He joined the British Pharmacological Society in 1977 shortly after graduating PhD in the University of Manchester. He had developed analytical techniques sensitive enough to measure plasma concentrations of drugs at therapeutic doses. The anti-epileptic drug, phenytoin, with its zero order pharmacokinetics provided him with fascinating material.

As a lecturer in Pharmacology, he was an accomplished teacher with excellent student rapport. He appreciated the need for continued education outside academia and after returning to Nova Scotia in 1980 he founded the research and consulting company, *Kemic Bioresearch*. This provided comprehensive courses to trainees in the pharmaceutical industry, government agencies and regulatory bodies. They covered the assay of drug concentration in body fluids, pharmacokinetics, bioavailability and toxicology and were presented at industrial sites and conference centres in the UK and across the Americas from Brazil to Canada. A regular summer course was held at his much loved, alma mater, Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. No one person could provide the necessary breadth of expertise and a team of instructors collaborated with him to keep the courses up-to-date.

Peter had a longstanding interest in the effects of drugs on performance both negative with alcohol, drugs and driving and positive with the stimulants, amphetamine and cocaine. He worked on devices to measure alcohol vapour in expired air and co-operated with the police and local authorities to discourage drink driving. He was called as an expert witness in cases involving criminal and forensic toxicology by courts across North America.

He was quick to appreciate the importance of interaction between medication and the immune system. He reported effects of phenytoin on T-lymphocytes in 1977. Two years later he was one of the founding editors of the *Journal of Immuno-pharmacology* and by 1980 he was co-organiser of a first international conference. He served on the editorial boards of several journals including the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. He was a Fellow of the *Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences* and organised its Annual Conference in 1998. He left a substantial body of publications in refereed journals and contributions to conferences and workshops relating to his special interests.

He was held in high esteem in Canadian universities and was appointed as an external reviewer of a faculty member of the University of Saskatchewan being considered for promotion to full professor. He never expressed regret at having abandoned a conventional academic career as a university lecturer but found enough scope for the expression of his creative ideas within the company, of which he was still president at the time of his death.

George Mawer, April 2021