

Preface

Last fall when we learned that Terry Beveridge was stricken with cancer at the age of 62, we were shocked and heartbroken. Wanting to do something for him, we conceived the idea of putting together a special issue of *Geobiology* in his honor. We had hoped he would be able to read and enjoy this, but sadly, the disease progressed too rapidly for this to be possible. And thus, this special issue has turned into a memorial.

Terry Beveridge was, hands down, one of the finest (geo)microbiologists of our time. A gentleman and a scholar, he was internationally respected. As the essays in this special issue demonstrate, his impact on several different fields – ranging from microbe-mineral interactions to bacterial cell biology – was tremendous. Beginning his career by studying surface arrays on the cell walls of spirilla, Terry in the span of four decades, crisscrossed back and forth between medical and environmental microbiology, leaving a legacy of more than 260 papers, several books and book chapters, 23 graduate students, 28 postdocs, and 34 visiting scholars. He collaborated with numerous investigators in several countries, and served as editor of various international journals. His many honors included being a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, and a member of the Austrian Academy of Science. In putting together this issue, it was telling that virtually everyone we invited to participate agreed immediately. Even those whom we invited to review the manuscripts for this issue responded willingly and with enthusiasm. From an editorial perspective, these are rare events,

and can only be seen as a measure of our community's admiration and affection for Terry. For this reason, assembling this special issue has been a pleasure, despite the sad circumstances that brought it into being. Even now, Terry continues to inspire and teach us – poignantly, this issue is a reminder that more than any great result, the truest measure of one's success in academic science is the intellectual and personal legacy one leaves behind.

The papers in this special issue are diverse. Some are personal tributes, others reviews, some forward-looking speculations, others summaries of recent results. All are bound by topics that interested Terry and involve people with whom he had a professional connection. As Terry loved to muse about science, we invited our colleagues to be more imaginative than usual in their contributions: we encouraged them to speculate about the implications of their work, and highlight areas of interest for the future. Terry would have enjoyed reading this issue, and we hope that you will too.

In closing, we would like to dedicate this to Jan Beveridge, Terry's wife of many years. We hope that it will serve as a tangible and permanent reminder of how much Terry was esteemed and loved by his colleagues, and how much he will be missed.

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