

OBITUARY

Alan N. Willer

This special edition of Biomarkers covering the Aerosol Dynamics and Health Conference held in June 2008 is dedicated to the everlasting memory of Alan N. Willer



Figure 1. Alan N. Willer.

On Monday, May 4, 2009, the Institute for Science and Health suffered a tremendous loss with the sudden passing of Chief Operating Officer Alan N. Willer.

Alan's Legacy

Alan (Figure 1) was a pillar of the Institute, the driving force behind the ideals, principles, operation, and management that have helped to grow and sustain the Institute to where it is today.

Alan was more than merely a co-worker and COO. He was a colleague, mentor, confidant, friend, husband, and father. He always put the needs of others before his own, and genuinely cared for the well-being of those around him, whether family, friends, neighbors, or colleagues. His abrupt departure will leave a great void – he will be missed by all.

Alan's Dedication

His dedication to others was paralleled by his dedication to the Institute, its mission, its vision. Alan poured his heart and soul into making the Institute flourish, championing the effort to provide hope to those in need, constantly seeking the means to create a healthier tomorrow. He worked tirelessly to promote and advance the Institute's research programs to support cutting-edge projects that hold the most promise for groundbreaking advances in disease prevention, early diagnosis, novel targeted therapies, and cures for health issues that seem to fall under the radar, but yet affect millions of people worldwide.

He did this because he believed so much in the Institute's vision and values, and that better times lay ahead. Ordinary people that currently are or may become affected by illnesses that some deem inconsequential or rare, need a 'champion' to supply a glimmer of hope that a better future lies ahead. Through Alan's drive, dedication and desire, the Institute is that glimmer of hope for now and into the future. Society is the beneficiary of his enduring efforts.

A Tribute to Alan - A Truly Great Man

Those of us remaining at the Institute are committed to carry on his legacy, despite the absence of the leader of our small but important band. To paraphrase words written by singer/songwriter Dan Fogelberg in 1981 as a tribute to his musician father (from “*Leader of the Band*”) –

*The leader of the band is gone
And his eyes have now been closed
But his blood runs through our instruments
And his song is in our souls
Our lives are just a poor attempt
To imitate the man
We're just a living legacy
To the leader of our band*

Carrying on Alan's legacy requires dedication for the staff and generosity from corporations, foundations, and philanthropists. The Institute for Science and Health asks that you consider joining us in creating a healthier tomorrow. Help us carry on the mission and vision that Alan devoted his life to, supporting vital ground-breaking research to offer hope to those in need.

Please contact the Institute for Science and Health at:

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