

## From the Editors

This Special Issue is devoted to *Hermann Esterbauer* who passed away in early 1997. Obituaries have already appeared in this and other journals to express sorrow from friends and colleagues. It was a spontaneous wish by several of the Editors of *Free Radical Research* to create something special to commemorate the extraordinary scientific personality of Hermann Esterbauer. The present issue brings together what friends and colleagues from different research areas thought was most appropriate from their viewpoint for this occasion. Indeed, many of the authors and coauthors of the papers collected here, as well as numerous others in the worldwide community of research, owe a lot to Hermann. He was one of the fortunate individuals who drew enormous pleasure and energy from working 'on the cutting edge' and, even

more fortunate, to be able to transmit the enthusiasm to his students and colleagues. Also, he was successful in opening new areas of research.

A central theme, of course, is LDL oxidation and the lipid peroxidation products, notably 4-hydroxynonenal. This field has been pioneered by Hermann Esterbauer, and we hope that the contributions collected here illustrate that the field has matured and will remain part of basic knowledge for the future. Importantly, we hope that these articles will also serve as a stimulus for young scientists for further work in free radical research, in the spirit of Hermann.

We extend our thanks to Dr. Victor Darley-Usmar for masterfully handling the bulk of the editorial aspects of this issue.

Helmut Sies and Barry Halliwell