

Foreword

This issue of the *International Journal of Mass Spectrometry* is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Sharon Garrison Lias, who spent nearly half a century at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (formerly the National Bureau of Standards) working primarily in ion chemistry. She passed away in 2004. An obituary by Michael Mautner appeared in the *Journal of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry* [1], but the present volume is a tribute overdue. During most of her career Sharon collaborated with Pierre Ausloos, who has written the biographical sketch included in this special issue.

In the latter half of her career, Sharon focused on compiling and evaluating ion thermochemical data such as appearance potentials, ionization energies, proton affinities, and gas-phase basicities [2–4]. She was dedicated to these projects and to similar data projects within her purview. Even serving as a Division Chief at NIST, with major administrative responsibilities, did not stop her. Anyone working in the field of ion chemistry can attest to the cardinal usefulness of her reference works; they have accumulated thousands of citations. By extension, this special issue also recognizes the unglamorous but essential work of data evaluation.

Sharon supported the staff in her care as much as she nurtured ion chemistry and its research community. One of us (KKI) received his initiation into the community of ion chemists at a NATO conference that Sharon (and Pierre) organized, and was later hired by Sharon into his current position. The other (JEB), as a new faculty member, posed a question to Sharon at the 1979

ASMS meeting, concerning a perceived incompleteness of the negative ion data in the 1977 Rosenstock compilation. He was promptly recruited into a project that has now been one of the major threads over his whole scientific career.

We both remember Sharon's personal warmth frequently, even more often than we use her publications.

References

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- [3] S.G. Lias, J.F. Liebman, R.D. Levin, *J. Phys. Chem. Ref. Data* 13 (1984) 695.
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