



Editorial

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to be guest editor for this special issue of IJMS in honor of Dr. Catherine Costello, who received the 2010 Field and Franklin Award. I can think of no finer recipient of this prestigious award.

I remember the first day I met Cathy when I walked into the basement of Building 56 at MIT to begin my graduate studies. As Associate Director of the NCRP Research Resource in Mass Spectrometry, Cathy took on the role of scientist, mentor, organizer and general caretaker of the graduate students. The “overwhelming” MAT 731 mass spectrometer stood looming in the background as Cathy tried to explain the expectations and privileges accorded those fortunate enough to grace the halls of MIT.

As Associate Director of the facility, Cathy commanded the attention of many of the faculty and research associates in the Chemistry Department. The catalyst that allowed her to further propel her career forward as Director of the NCRP Center for Biomedical Mass Spectrometry was her move to Boston University School of Medicine, as Professor of Biophysics, Biochemistry and Chemistry. Her ability to organize and lead an NCRP facility of this magnitude and to continue pushing the frontiers of biological mass spectrometry is not surprising in light of her immense capacity for excellence.

In many ways, Dr. Costello was ahead of her time. Cathy's seminal work on glycosphingolipids and gangliosides gave evidence to her attention to details, while her mentorship on how to conduct these difficult analyses helped pave the way for young investigators interested in this demanding field. Her groundbreaking research in

the challenging area of carbohydrate structural analysis has set the bar at a standard that is both commendable and necessary given the importance of these biomolecules.

While I could easily extol her scientific virtues until bordering on the excessive, I should also point out that Cathy has limitless energy with an unparalleled capacity for fun, and travel. I have been reminded of this on several occasions, particularly those times when she outlasted me during hikes in northern California, or during those late nights in the lab when I headed for home and Cathy's office light was still ablaze. I was witness to this unending reserve of energy more recently at the spring 2010 ACS meeting when after a full day of presentations and meetings, she accepted her Field and Franklin Award with grace, dignity and elegance.

Professor Catherine Costello is a scientist, mentor, and colleague extraordinaire. We dedicate this special issue of IJMS in her honor and wish her continued success, good health and hope that she will continue to instill the joy of research into the young scientists who follow in her path.

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Available online 24 June 2011