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## Obituary

## Joseph Howard Rytting (1942–2008)



Our well-known and regarded Editor-in-Chief for the Americas and Australia, Howard Rytting, died on 6th August in Lawrence, Kansas after a brief illness. His untimely death has deprived the University of Kansas and the wider scientific community of an influential researcher and a committed teacher, and this journal of a dedicated, thoughtful and respected Editor-in-Chief. He handled the papers he received with great care and was always at pains to make the right decision for both the authors and the journal.

Howard's own most recent paper, on the stability of lyophilised growth hormone, was published, appropriately, in this journal. Dur-

ing his career he published widely in journals as diverse as *JACS*, *Science*, *Thermochimica Acta*, the *Journal of Inclusion Phenomena*, the *Journal of Solution Chemistry* and *Pharmaceutical Research* amongst others, reflecting his strong fundamental interests in the thermodynamics of pharmaceutical systems and in the application of these principles to drug absorption. His papers involved over 120 collaborators, not least of whom was the legendary Takeru Higuchi. A sample of other names from this list reads like a who's who of pharmaceutical science, Bradley Anderson, Kenneth Audus, Larry Caldwell, Jens Carstensen, S.S. (Bob) Davis, David Grant and many more from several continents.

For 39 years until his death, Howard was a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Kansas University. Born in Rexburg, Idaho in 1942 he received his bachelor's education at Brigham Young University, gaining his doctorate in physical chemistry there in 1969, before moving to Lawrence where he spent the whole of his subsequent career.

For all his accomplishments, he was a modest man, quiet, not showy, and ever thoughtful about other opinions. His long-time colleague, Valentine Stella, has referred to Howard amongst his other attributes as the conscience of the Department in Kansas, a reflection of his character and deep religious faith. His immediate colleagues and students will miss him, as will his world-wide family of authors and fellow scientists. Most of all we send to his wife Barbara and their family of eight daughters, four sons and 39 grandchildren our thoughts, confident that their memories of this talented and respected man will sustain them at this time.

*Editor-in-Chief*

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