

IN MEMORIAM  
Regitze R. Vold  
(July 2, 1937–April 11, 1999)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one of the members of our Editorial Board, Regitze R. Vold. Gitte's death in a freak accident deprives us of a highly esteemed colleague and much valued friend, and the entire NMR community mourns her loss. Born and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark, she obtained her Ph.D. in 1962 from the Technical University of Denmark. Gitte spent most of her adult life in the United States, first at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and variously in Hawaii, New Mexico, and San Diego. Since 1982 Gitte was a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego.

Gitte was in the prime of her life, enjoying new and exciting directions in her work, and was embracing with characteristic great enthusiasm a number of new recreations. There are perhaps few who realize that she took up skiing only very few years ago. On the other hand, it is widely known that the use of bicelles in NMR was a recent development for which she received a great deal of recognition. Indeed, although Gitte was always most careful to give credit to earlier workers in the field, she was jokingly introduced at many recent conferences as "Ms. Bicelle."

Gitte's loss leaves a big hole in our community. Apart from her service on the Editorial

Board of the *Journal of Magnetic Resonance* and other scientific journals, Gitte was actively involved in every aspect of the field in a service capacity. Her efforts on review panels, on the organizing committees of conferences, and as a society officer were exemplary and provided a real example to those of us who may be lazier about these things. Her presence at any conference was almost guaranteed to raise the level of interest and the duration of the discussion. With her energy and appetite for life, it is very hard to believe she is gone.

The memories of most of her friends will contain images of Gitte the “live wire,” playing tennis, drinking wine, skiing (too fast!), giving lectures, explaining, persuading, and arguing, always with that wonderful open smile and hearty laugh. Her NMR lectures informed generations of would-be spectroscopists throughout the San Diego area. She touched so many lives, yet her attitude was so humble and egalitarian. She would be the first to scoff at “touched so many lives.” But she did.

Gitte was an important role model for those of us who happen to be women physical scientists. Her scientific thinking was rigorous and she was extremely well read. She was equally at home in theoretical discussions and with a soldering iron. She was unusual, she was sometimes outrageous, and she did not hesitate to contradict anybody. She exuded confidence and authority, yet those who knew her even slightly could always detect the warmth, the concern, and the humor.

Gitte Vold, citizen of the world, exceptional friend, colleague, and human being, we salute you. Hail and farewell.

H. Jane Dyson  
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