

## Editorial

# Murray Goodman

**Keywords:** Goodman, Murray; peptide science, history of

Murray Goodman, who died on 1 June 2004, was a great peptide scientist with celebrity status, who was showered with awards in his lifetime. Already two Murray Goodman Lectures have been organized [1,2], and several appreciations in memoriam [3–7] have appeared. The University of California at San Diego has established a Murray Goodman Memorial Fund. This special issue of the European Peptide Society's Journal may therefore be thought to call for some explanation. But he was one of its Founding Editors. Further, although he was very much an American, born in Brooklyn on 6 July 1928 and bred there, the influence of his research, teaching, editorial activity and personality was far-reaching in Europe, and his untimely death took place in Europe on one of his frequent trips across the Atlantic. In view of the many commemorations of Murray Goodman which were published soon after his death, and others known to be

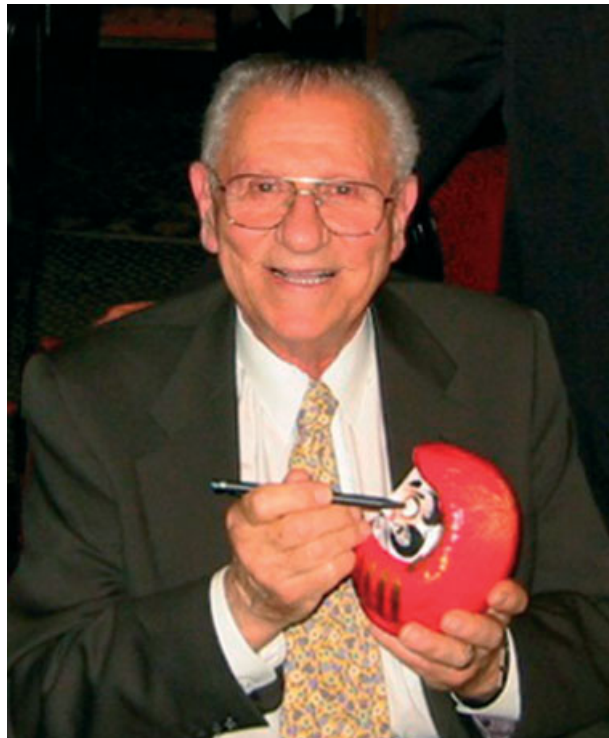
in the pipeline, we decided to time ours for his first anniversary.

The morning session of the Prague European Peptide Symposium on Monday September 6 2004 [8] was dedicated in his memory and began with a minute's standing silence by the assembled delegates, followed by an address [9] about the man and his work. The session was designated the 'Houben-Weyl Memorial Session', reminding us of Murray Goodman's role as Editor-in-Chief of the new Houben-Weyl on peptides and peptidomimetics [10]. This was a Herculean task which few would have been able to bring to fruition. He tackled it with characteristic energy, leadership and style.

His influence in Europe was in part direct, and in part through his many friends and sometime associates, and it is fitting that this, our tribute, should comprise mainly contributions from the latter, coordinated by Claudio Toniolo, whose idea it was. We should all thank Claudio for that, and I am grateful to him for creating an opportunity to record my own salute.

I never worked with Murray Goodman, and my lifetime direct personal contact with him cannot have totalled many more hours than I have fingers. But those hours left vivid memories. He had the gift of friendship, a remarkable memory for the names of members of the expanding peptide community, a searching interest in all aspects of peptide science, and was a conversationalist *par excellence*. I remember especially a chance encounter on a railway station following a small scientific meeting somewhere in England nearly forty years ago. Fortunately for me, he was travelling on the same train, and so I got an extended tutorial on sequential polypeptides and racemization in their synthesis which partly prompted my first dabbling in independent research [11], building on the doctoral work with Geoffrey Young that I had just finished. I remember, too, a much more recent wonderfully entertaining intimate dinner party with him and his wife Zelda, and also Claudio Toniolo, given by Martin Rothlisberger our Publishing Editor, ostensibly to discuss the Journal's affairs.

The members of the peptide community might be forgiven for thinking that Murray Goodman's whole energy and attention was theirs. Not so — he was primarily a family man, was fully engaged in the governance of his Department and University, and was also active in the Jewish and broader communities in San Diego, serving as President of the Congregation



Murray Goodman filling in the right eye of a Japanese Daruma Doll, the traditional way of marking the successful completion of a project, Boston, July 2003. The left eye was painted by him at the outset of the Houben-Weyl peptide and peptidomimetics venture, Kyoto, December 1997.

Beth El Synagogue in La Jolla, and on the Boards of the Hillel Foundation and La Jolla Country Day School.

There is also a danger that so gregarious, vivacious and high-profile a man will leave a memory among his peripheral contacts which does not acknowledge his more sensitive side. And so I conclude by quoting from his reflections of 1974 on the premature death of his Padua friend Ernesto Scoffone: 'I recall Ernesto's visit to us in San Diego at the beginning of June 1973...Ernesto knew that he was a sick man. He talked about his family; his hopes for them. He asked why fate had dealt him such a cruel blow. On a walk on the cliffs above the La Jolla beach with the sun setting, I understood his great tragedy. Yet we both sensed the beauty of our world. My life has indeed been enriched by my friendship with Ernesto Scoffone' [12]. Such words tell us almost as much about the writer as they do about his subject, and we were surely enriched by knowing Murray Goodman,

JOHN JONES  
*Editor-in-Chief*

## REFERENCES

1. Rabbi David J. Wolpe was scheduled to give a 'Murray Goodman Memorial Lecture' entitled *Floating Takes Faith: Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World* at the 10th Annual San Diego Jewish Book Fair on 16 November 2004.
2. Harold Scheraga was scheduled to give the '2005 Murray Goodman Lecture' entitled *The Protein Folding Problem; Structure and Folding Pathways* at UCSD on 24 January 2005.
3. Seethaler S. Pioneer in peptide Chemistry at UC San Diego dies at 75. <http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/newsrel/science/sgoodman.asp> Dated June 4, 2004, accessed 25 February 2005.
4. Deber CM. In commemoration of Dr Murray Goodman 1928–2004. *Biopolymers* 2004; **74**(6): v–vi.
5. Moroder L. Murray Goodman (1928–2004): Peptide chemistry. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2004; **43**: 3628.
6. Hrubby VJ. Murray Goodman (1928–2004). *J. Peptide Res.* 2005; **65**: 2–3.
7. Moroder L, Peggion E, Benedetti E, Sakarellos C, Sakarellos-Daitsiotis M [three separate contributions]. *Eur. Peptide Soc. Newsl.* 2004; **31**: 11–13.
8. 3rd International and 28th European Peptide Symposium. Prague 5–10 September 2004: Abstracts. *J. Peptide Sci.* 2004; **10**: Supplement.
9. Naider F. Murray Goodman, teacher, mentor, friend. *J. Peptide Sci.* 2004; **10**: Supplement; 90.
10. Jones J. Houben-Weyl on peptides and peptidomimetics. *J. Peptide Sci.* 2003; **9**: 607–611.
11. Jones JH. Racemisation-free sequential polypeptide synthesis. *Chem Commun.* 1969; 1436–1437.
12. Goodman M. Reflections on peptide chemistry: a tribute to Ernesto Scoffone. [Delivered at the University of Padua, 10 May 1974]. Printed for private circulation, Antoniana Spa-Ind. Tipolitografica-Padova, 1974.