

# Tribute

## *Professor Andrew Keller*

WILLIAM BONFIELD

*Professor of Medical Materials, University of Cambridge, Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ, UK*  
*E-mail: wb210@hermes.cam.ac.uk*

---

This special issue acknowledges the seminal contribution of Professor Andrew Keller to polymer science and brings together contributions from his many colleagues and friends as a tribute to his memory. It is particularly appropriate that the Journal of Materials Science publishes such a memorial, as Andrew played a key role in the foundation and development of the Journal to its present position at the international forefront of the field. Andrew was a member of the enlightened group of Editors, chaired by Robert Cahn, which launched Journal of Materials Science in 1966. At that time, the concept of Materials Science as an integrated discipline covering the structure, properties processing and application of all materials was novel. From the outset, Andrew was responsible for nurturing and encouraging the submission of polymer papers and for ensuring appropriate refereeing, much of which he performed personally or through his group in Bristol. Given his enthusiasm and insight, many authors found their papers considerably improved by the quality of the refereeing process.

I first met Andrew through the Journal in 1973, when I became the Editor. Andrew continued until the end as

an Editorial Board member and, more recently, when the Editorial Board was enlarged, as an Executive Committee member.

A notable feature of the period from 1973 was the insight provided by annual Editorial Board meetings, chaired for most of the period by Geoffrey Sims and held at the Chapman and Hall offices in London. Andrew rarely missed a meeting, and usually managed to arrive from Bristol, or some international meeting, just in time for the start. His role was to review the polymer papers published in the previous year and to ensure that the Journal maintained a strong polymer theme. Each year Andrew provided a thoughtful analysis of progress in polymer science and of the associated authors which demonstrated his extraordinary command of the subject. A measure of his success was that the polymer content in the Journal has remained strong through so many years, both complementing the specialist polymer journals and disseminating some distinctive aspects of the subject to a wider materials science community.

As Editor of Journal of Materials Science, I greatly appreciated Andrew's support, encouragement, kindness and wisdom. He is sadly missed.