

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### In Times of Joy and Sorrow

In the midst of national and, indeed, international tragedy, war, economic uncertainties, and unrest among people; we, as individuals, still need to live our daily lives and keep our focus on our chosen field of endeavor. We still need to face trials and tribulations, reunions and departures, successes and failures, triumphs and defeats, love and lost, and joy and sorrow.

Not long ago I wrote an "Editor's Corner" in this *Journal* expressing my feelings of working with graduate students in my career. They are indeed my sons and daughters in my profession. On one recent Friday afternoon I received an e-mail from a colleague informing me of the passing of one of my former students. It was indeed a sad moment. I closed my office door. Pulled out her file and started reading our many correspondences through the years. I could almost hear her voice and see her smiling face in the silence of my surroundings. She was so full of energy, so full of hope, so full of love of science and art, so talented in sports and music, and such a super graduate student in course work and such a star in her research discoveries and productivity. How could Dr. Linda S.L. Yu have died? She was so young, with a loving husband, a wonderful daughter, and an excellent job with the USDA.

Only last year (2000) during the 20 Anniversary of the International Workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology she returned to Manhattan, Kansas and delivered an excellent lecture on biosensors as an Alumnus Fellow. She looked healthy and happy. Her family had a great time visiting Kansas State University campus since her husband was also a graduate student in our department. This was where they met and, eventually, got married and started a family.

Linda's work on Oxyrase™ enzyme was brilliant. She and I discovered that Oxyrase™ can stimulate the growth of a large class of facultative anaerobic pathogens in liquid medium. By doing so one can use secondary methods such as PCR, ELISA, biosensors to detect pathogens in a much shorter time. We even developed a glass system — the Fung-Yu Tube System — that can rapidly monitor motile bacteria along with the use of Oxyrase™. Our work resulted in two US patents. From Linda's original work on Oxyrase™ many laboratories have repeated the findings for different organisms. This work also stimulated a large number of research projects in my laboratory. We all owe Linda a large measure of gratitude for her untiring efforts in research and publication.

She was my 35th graduate student from a total of 80 students I have graduated. After her Ph.D. degree with me and a short period as a Post-Doc she began her career as an Assistant Professor of Food Microbiology at the University of Saskatchewan. After some vicissitudes of life she eventually

became a Research Scientist at USDA in Philadelphia. She was working on biosensors and rapid detection of pathogens and published many papers in this area. Her death cut short a brilliant scientific career. She left behind a loving family and a large number of colleagues and friends all over the world.

We will miss you, Linda. I will miss you, Linda.

DANIEL Y.C. FUNG