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Crystallographers

This section is intended to be a series of short paragraphs dealing with the activities of crystallographers, such as their changes of position, promotions, assumption of significant new duties, honours, etc. Items for inclusion, subject to the approval of the Editorial Board, should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J. N. King, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England).

J. Appl. Cryst. (1989). **22**, 641

Chin Hsuan Wei 1926-1989

Chin Hsuan Wei died on 7 January 1989, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, after a year-long struggle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Born in Yuanlin, Taiwan, Wei received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at Cheng Kung University in 1950, where he worked as an instructor until 1956. He received a scholarship for graduate studies at Purdue University, where he obtained a master's degree in 1958. From there he moved to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he obtained his doctorate in chemistry in 1962 with Lawrence F. Dahl. This was the beginning of a life-long collaboration in the study of the structures of metal carbonyls and other metal-organic compounds. Wei published 25 papers on these materials, 17 of them co-authored by Dahl.

In 1966 Wei went to the Biology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, to work with J. Ralph Einstein. There he became an expert in biological protein chemistry. He wrote 14 papers on the purification, characterization, and crystallization of proteins, including the phytotoxins ricin and abrin. He also published 25 papers on the structures of other organic molecules including compounds related to photodimers of thymine and to the antischistosomal agent hycanthone. Of these papers, 15 were co-authored by Einstein.

Hsuan Wei was probably the hardest working scientist I have known, often putting in more than 80 hours a week of work on his beloved crystallography. He is survived by his wife, Sue Yue Wei, and by his son, Aguan Wei, and daughter, Lilian M. Wei. He will be missed.

WILLIAM R. BUSING

Linus Pauling, 88, retired director of the Linus Pauling Institute of Science and Medicine, has been selected to receive the National Science Board's Vannevar

Bush Award for outstanding contributions to science and society. He has made major contributions to crystallography, molecular structure, chemical bonding, molecular biology and macromolecular evolution. Pauling was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1954 for research on chemical bonding and applications to chemical structure elucidation, and in 1962 he received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on behalf of the international control of nuclear weapons and against nuclear weapons testing. The Vannevar Bush Award is named for the federal government official whose recommendation to President Truman resulted in establishment of the National Science Foundation in 1950.

International Union of Crystallography

J. Appl. Cryst. (1989). **22**, 641-642

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