

## Remembering John G. Wagner

I had the great privilege of working and teaching with John G. Wagner, one of the "founding fathers" of biopharmaceutics and pharmacokinetics for 11 years as a member of the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy faculty. During this time, and more so thereafter, I came to appreciate John's incredible dedication and enthusiasm for scientific research, as well as his personal integrity. Of particular significance was the textbook he published in 1975, entitled *Fundamentals of Clinical Pharmacokinetics*. As John would say on occasion in jest . . . "that can't be right. It's not in my book." To a large extent, this was true. In its time, John's book was the authoritative source on the theory and application of biopharmaceutics and pharmacokinetics. If there was an equation you needed or a model that had to be defined, this is where you went for the answer. In fact, this book is still used by myself and others 23 years later, even with the plethora of kinetic textbooks available today. John Wagner died suddenly on May 10, 1998, leaving behind a truly distinguished record of accomplishment. In this regard, John's impact will be realized for many years to come through the talented graduate students and postdoctoral fellows that he trained, as well as by his timely, rigorous, and insightful publications in the pharmaceutical, pharmacological, and clinical sciences.

*David E. Smith*  
*University of Michigan*

Most students in pharmacy graduate programs in the early 1960s would follow the path laid out by Takeru Higuchi, a physical chemist who had the vision to apply his experience to pharmaceutical problems. Physical pharmacy was the first serious research effort to emerge from pharmacy education. Also struggling for attention at the time with few advocates was an area of research called biopharmaceutics and pharmacokinetics. I chose the

path less taken, inspired by the published papers of Eino Nelson, Gerhard Levy, and perhaps most of all John Wagner. While John Wagner could toss around equations as well as any one in the field, his work almost always had a practical bent. He was interested in solving problems and he solved an awful lot in his time. After completing my training and entering academic life, John and I became colleagues. I was always amazed at his passion for research—John thrived on scientific argument. He was fiercely proud of his research and wanted everyone to know of his contributions. In one report he cited a reference where Wagner JG was the first author and Wagner JG was the last author. John Wagner's body of work has had an enormous impact on pharmaceutical research. Those of us fortunate enough to be present at the beginning will miss him.

*Milo Gibaldi*  
*University of Washington*