

## In Memoriam John Stuart Gray

Professor John Stuart Gray passed away on 21 October 2007 at the age of 66, after a long and determined fight against pancreatic cancer. John is survived by his wife Anita and their sons, Martin and Anders. John was instrumental in moving benthic ecology and studies of pollution from observation to hypothesis testing. During his career John published 3 books and over 130 scientific papers (more than half of which were single author), and he co-authored the seminal 1983 article in MEPS by Azam et al. that coined the phrase 'microbial loop' and won the 2006 John Martin Award of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography for a 'paradigm shift in aquatic ecology'. John's eminent skills and approachability made him one of the icons of marine science.

Born in Bolsover, England, in 1941, John gained a BSc (1962), PhD (1965) and DSc (1976) from the University of Wales (Bangor). His work on the archiannelid *Protodrilus symbioticus* won him the Zoological Society's T.H. Huxley prize for 1965, a bronze Henry Moore maquette. John moved to the University of Leeds, Wellcome Marine Laboratory in Robin Hood's Bay, in 1965, where he formed a dynamic group working on sediment ecology. In 1976 he was appointed Professor of Marine Biology and Head of Department at the University of Oslo, Norway. Here he made his major contributions: experimental ecology of marine sediments; effects of pollutants on marine organisms; developing techniques for early detection of pollution effects; and assessment of marine biodiversity.

In the course of his career, John became a Foreign Member of the Norwegian Academy of Arts and Science, a Member of the European Environmental Research Organisation (EERO), a Member (and former chairman) of the UN's Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), Chairman of the UN's Group of Experts on Effects of Pollution (GEEP) and President of the European Marine Biology Symposium. He was on the Editorial Boards of MEPS and several other leading journals. He held Visiting Professor appointments at universities in the UK, Hong Kong, USA and Australia. He chaired many international and national evaluation committees, including the International Expert Panel on the Øresund Link between Denmark and Sweden.

John was a member of the Biological Committees of both the Norwegian and Swedish Research Councils,



Professor John Stuart Gray (1941–2007)

but also maintained close connections with his homeland. He was a member of the UK Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and chaired the Higher Education Affairs Committee and Marine Sciences Committee, where he helped to develop the Land Ocean Interaction Study (LOIS); this was NERC's largest 'community research project', involving 11 NERC institutes and 26 universities, and the breadth and boldness of the original planning had much to do with John's foresight. John was also a member of Plymouth Marine Laboratory's Scientific Advisory Council. More recently, John became involved in European collaborative programmes, notably COST-IMPACT and MarBEF; the current success of MarBEF has a great deal to do with John's engagement.

John was a brilliant and enthusiastic lecturer and teacher, and pursued his teaching and research activities right up until his passing. In addition to his scientific accomplishments he provided much hospitality, humour and support to the marine science community. His students will remember him as a wonderful mentor, who taught by example and shared not only his scientific knowledge, but also his attitude and wisdom, and the capacity to enjoy both science and the finer things in life such as good food and wine! John and his wife Anita were exceptionally fine hosts, welcoming, accommodating and feeding visitors from all walks of life at their home.

**Richard Warwick\***, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK

**John Field**, University of Cape Town, South Africa

**Carlo Heip**, Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology, Yerseke, The Netherlands

**Tony Stebbing**, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK

\*Email: rmw@pml.ac.uk