EDITORIAL

In appreciation: Charles M. Tipton and the history of physiology

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The editors of Advances in Physiology Education and the leadership of the American Physiological Society (APS) History of Physiology Group would like to express their profound appreciation to Charles M. Tipton, PhD, for his extraordinary service to both the journal and to the History of Physiology Group (Fig. 1). Dr. Tipton, affectionately known as “Tip,” has been instrumental in promoting Advances in Physiology Education as the premier journal for publication of papers dealing with the history of physiology. Furthermore, Tip’s efforts served as the impetus for establishment of both the Living History of Physiology project and the History of Physiology Lecture as a Distinguished Lecture.

Dr. Tipton has had a long and distinguished career in exercise physiology, which he recently reviewed in a career perspective (4). In addition to his contributions to the science of physiology, he has served the APS faithfully and well on editorial boards and as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Applied Physiology and Advances in Physiology Education, as well as in positions of leadership, such as APS Council and Publications Committee Chair. Of particular note in the current context, Dr. Tipton served as the first Associate Editor for Advances in Physiology Education assigned with primary responsibility for handling articles dealing with the history of physiology. He served in this capacity from 2003 to 2010. Before 2003, only 4 papers dealing with the history of physiology were published within Advances since its inception in 1989; since 2003, there have been 31 historical papers published within the journal. Tip has tirelessly advocated (and perhaps even hounded) authors to publish historical work in Advances using the Historical Perspectives and Living History mechanisms, submission types established during his tenure as Associate Editor. Through his efforts, Advances in Physiology Education has become the repository for APS members’ scholarly efforts in understanding and documenting the history of our discipline.

Dr. Tipton was also the driving force behind the Living History of Physiology project, which was established in 2004 while he was an APS Council member. This program provides funding for videotaping of eminent physiologists, who discuss their contributions to physiology, as well as lessons learned over their career. To date, more than 100 biographies and videos have been posted on the Living History of Physiology page of the APS web site (https://www.the-aps.org/mm/Membership/Living-History), providing APS members with a rich trove of collective wisdom from senior physiologists.

Dr. Tipton’s interest in the history of physiology has resulted in his publication of 10 historical articles (5 of which appeared in Advances in Physiology Education) and 2 books on the history of exercise physiology (1, 3). In 2007, he received the Orr E. Reynolds Award for his paper “Historical perspective: the antiquity of exercise, exercise physiology and the exercise prescription for health” (2). Dr. Tipton has also been the driving force behind the History of Physiology Group for over 20 yr, serving as an officer of the group almost continuously from 1995 to 2016. The History of Physiology Group has...
traditionally held a business meeting/lunch followed by an informal post-lunch lecture. Through his advocacy, the History of Physiology Group lecture was first listed in the Experimental Biology program in 2012, resulting in a standing-room-only crowd to hear Dr. Jerome Dempsey. Tip continued his efforts to broaden exposure for the history lecture, and, at Experimental Biology 2017, the lecture was publicized as a Distinguished Lecture for the first time. This lecture was given by Dr. Jack Rall of the Ohio State University. This year’s Distinguished Lecture on the History of Physiology at Experimental Biology 2018 will be given by Dr. Peter Raven of the University of North Texas Health Science Center. At Tip’s insistence, the lecturer receives the same recognition memento and honorarium as Sectional Distinguished Lecturers.

Each of us has been inspired by Dr. Tipton’s enthusiasm, passion, and example as a life-long learner. His contributions to this journal and to documentation of our ongoing history are immense and worthy of recognition. We sincerely thank you, Tip, for all of your efforts. Your legacy will live on in us.

DISCLAIMER

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DISCLOSURES

No conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise, are declared by the authors.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

K.L.R., J.B.D., and D.C.-E. conceived and designed research; K.L.R. drafted manuscript; K.L.R., J.B.D., and D.C.-E. edited and revised manuscript; K.L.R., J.B.D., and D.C.-E. approved final version of manuscript.

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