



## Editorial

### Preface: Memorial Issue Dedicated to Thomas J. Dougherty<sup>†</sup>

This issue is the outcome, in part, of the papers presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Photodynamic Association (IPA) World Congress held at the Boston Marriot Cambridge Hotel, in Cambridge, MA from 28 June to 4 July 2019. This particular issue honors Thomas J. Dougherty's enormous contributions to the field of Photodynamic Therapy and is a symbol of our gratitude to him. Consistent with Tom's wishes, the Congress was forward-looking, projecting areas with high potential for making an impact on healthcare and science using Photodynamic therapy (PDT) & Photodiagnosis (PD), as well as capturing the current state of the field. Both basic science and applied topics were covered and provided a good platform for exchange of ideas between laboratory scientists, clinicians and engineers. It was specifically aimed to help implement "bench to bedside" translation and targeted clinical applications for which the optical approach of PDT & PD could provide unique benefits. The Congress was attended by approximately 500 engineers, physicians and scientists and was sponsored by a number of industry partners. Tom always encouraged "newcomers" to the field, and Prof. Hasan's entry to PDT research was very much a result of just such an interaction with him. In that spirit, we emphasized attendance by junior scientists, women and underrepresented minorities so that new and diverse viewpoints may be presented.


Typically, the conference opened with Plenary Lectures which encompassed broad overviews of science and applications to disease. Of note was a special lecture by Jack W. Szostak (Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston MA) Nobel laureate in Physiology and Medicine in 2009. Industry leaders from Novartis and Merrimack Pharmaceuticals were also part of the plenary lecture series to provide an overview of challenges in the development of therapeutics and diagnostics. Professor Rakesh Jain from the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School provided the basis of exploiting tumor physiology for developing approaches to novel therapeutics in his plenary lecture.


The publications in this issue go beyond what Tom worked on personally and are a tribute to his constant encouragement to

all to broaden the applications of PDT. David Kessel, a longtime colleague and friend of Tom, writes a moving brief memoir of him at the outset of this issue. The other topics are extremely diverse and enhance the issue.

So, we observe the passing of Thomas J. Dougherty by celebrating it with a special symposium dedicated to him at the 17<sup>th</sup> IPA Congress and this special issue of Photochemistry and Photobiology. We thank all the attendees, our industry partners and authors for their participation in making this a successful Congress and Publication and wish you the best for the year 2020.

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