Herman J. Woltring (1943-1992)

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EDITORIAL

HERMAN J. WOLTRING (1943-1992)

Herman J. Woltring was born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 14 April 1943. He obtained an MS degree in Electrical Engineering from the Eindhoven University of Technology in 1970. In the Academic year 1971/72 he was awarded a European Science Exchange Fellowship from the Royal Society of London and the Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Pure Research, which he spent at the University of Sussex (U.K.), where he obtained an MS degree in Experimental Psychology. Earlier, directly after his graduation in Eindhoven, he had started his research work on the experimental analysis of human movement in the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Nijmegen, where he became an Assistant Professor. This work culminated in his well-known dissertation 'Measurement and control of human movement', for which he received his Ph.D. degree in Mathematics and Physics in 1977. This work was characteristic for his fundamental approach to the problems of musculoskeletal kinematics, in which he displayed his unusual talents as a mathematician, which would bring him fame in the Biomechanics community.

After his Ph.D. graduation he fulfilled Visiting Assistant Professorships in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Waterloo, Canada (1977/1978) and in the Department of Orthopaedics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A (1978/1979). In 1980, back in The Netherlands, he started his private Biomechanics Consultancy, for which he was active until his death, 3 November 1992. During those 12 years he collaborated closely with a large number of research groups all over the world.

He authored and co-authored a large number of articles,

book chapters and conference presentations on the mathematical basis of human-joint kinematics and musculoskeletal dynamics, and filtering of noisy data. He was an esteemed supporter of the *Journal of Biomechanics*, in which he published and served as a referee and an Editorial Consultant from 1979.

He served the Biomechanics community at large as the founder and first editor of BIOMCH-L, a world-wide electronic newsletter for Biomechanics and Human Movement Science.

Early October 1992, Dr Woltring submitted his last paper to the *Journal of Biomechanics*, 'Instantaneous helical axis estimation from 3-D video data in neck kinematics for whiplash diagnostics'. It is published in this issue in its original form, as suggested by the referees.

In January 1992, Dr Woltring submitted a manuscript to the *Journal of Biomechanics* entitled '3-D attitude representation (of human joints): a standardization proposal'. Because of its scope, it was reviewed by five referees. Dr Woltring revised and resubmitted it shortly before his death in October 1992. This proposal is now also published in this issue of the *Journal of Biomechanics*. Originally, it was believed that the proposal would generate a discussion on the topic in the journal, but maybe that could still happen. To stimulate that, we have included a few selected referee comments in the article, with Dr Woltring's responses. These nicely illustrate his erudition and dedication to the subject.

Rik Huiskes,
Co-Editor-in-Chief