

Obituary

It is with profound sorrow that we communicate the untimely death as a result of acute leukemia of our colleague and friend Dr. John Brian Siddall on Sunday morning, April 26, 1981. John was born in Chesterfield, England on May 27, 1939 and obtained his education in England, completing his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry under the direction of Professor Arthur J. Birch at Manchester. He joined Syntex Corporation in Mexico City in 1963 and was rapidly promoted to Senior Chemist (1964) and to Group Leader (1967) in this company's newly established research center in Palo Alto, California. In this latter capacity he headed Syntex's pioneering research in the synthesis of insect molting hormones and of juvenile hormones and their analogues. This work was instrumental in the establishment of Zoecon Corporation in Palo Alto, where he served as its first Director of Research, then as Vice President of Research, and lately as its first Senior Scientist. Throughout his tragically short career, John authored a prodigious number of patents and research publications in the area of the chemistry and action of insect hormones and pheromones. He was intensely interested in the biology and biochemistry of insects. In 1971 he launched a basic research project which resulted in the discovery of a new natural insect juvenile hormone in 1973, and he played a major role in the discovery and development of methoprene, the first commercial juvenoid. For his contribution to this latter invention he was corecipient of the 1979 'Inventor of the Year' award from the parent corporation, Hooker Chemical Company, a division of Occidental Petroleum Corporation. John was a member of the American Chemical Society, The Chemical Society, AAAS, and the Federation of American Scientists. He was very active in the activities of the Division of Pesticide Chemistry and recently served as a member of the executive committee. He was also on the board of editors of the *Journal of Chemical Ecology*. In addition to his scientific and professional activities, John was an avid sailor and skier, and devoted much time to the Boy Scouts of America. Our hearts go out to his wife Judie, his children, and to his parents.

We will all miss John for his brilliant scientific ideas, his eloquence, his wit, and his gentle ways.

Clive A. Henrick
Julius J. Menn