

and found it easy to talk to him. He always felt that teaching of medical students was the primary responsibility of the staff. He acted accordingly, but at the same time, jealously protected our time for research such that it always amounted to about 2/3 to 3/4 of our total time.

He had close and long lasting ties to members of this department, almost to the exclusion of other contacts, except his family. His only hobby was to be a ham operator during the time when he still lived in his house in Pelham in Westchester County. Later he spent his — what is commonly called — leisure time in reading a book once in a while and in taping operas on his stereo set. I know that by the time he left New York for Gainesville, he had already recorded quite a number of first rate productions of operas and was looking forward to listening to them down in Florida.

Personally, I first met Pitts, very briefly, when I was an Intern in the Department of Medicine at the University of Vienna Medical School in 1954. It was another 4 years before I saw him again and at that time asked him if he would give me a job, which he did. During the subsequent years the opportunity never developed that I would personally work together with Pitts in his experiments. Still, a close relationship developed in which I obviously considered him a senior advisor and father figure. As you might gather, I have always had the highest regard for him as a person. I found him exceptionally strong in carrying the load of his wife's sickness and his own health problems. In his private life and his professional career the main theme that I could detect was his sense of responsibility.

### PERSONAL REMINISCENCE

Gerhard Giebisch

One of the striking features of Dr. Robert Pitts, one might mention, was his extreme loyalty to his associates, his encouragement to those he considered gifted and a strong esprit de corps in his department.

In addition, he rated teaching very high, attended all lectures and particularly in an exemplary fashion in all teaching activities. He was, almost until the very end, a very hard worker on the bench and did his own Van Slykes until late at night and there was no detail of his work which he did not consider worth his attention. Although usually stern and reserved, he could warm up, particularly at a party after a drink or two, and then was a delightful person with great warmth and sympathy.

The International Physiological Society, and I am grateful to Klaus Thurau for his support, has decided to hold, from now on, at each of their meetings, a Robert F. Pitts Lecture.

I hope this will help to honor our Robert F. Pitts and to keep his name known.

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### THANK YOU FROM THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Colleague:

Since the journals of the Society were reorganized (April 1976) more than 1200 Guest Referee Editors have helped the 200 Editors and members of the Editorial Boards in reviewing manuscripts. The number of manuscripts submitted to the *American Journals of Physiology* and *Journal of Applied Physiology: Respiratory, Environmental and Exercise Physiology* has increased markedly. This is clearly shown in the following table, which lists the number of manuscripts received and percentage increase in succeeding six-month periods.

January — June	1975	.....	839
July — December	1975	.....	842 +0%
January — June	1976	.....	881 +5%
July — December	1976	.....	946 +7%
January — June	1977	.....	1030 +9%

The Publications Committee wishes to thank all of you for your support.

Sincerely,

Alfred P. Fishman, Chairman  
Publications Committee

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### HONORS AND AWARDS

This Spring, the National Academy of Sciences elected 60 American scientists and engineers to membership in the Academy. Two APS members were recipients of this honor:

**Dr. Floyd E. Bloom**, Director, Arthur Vining David Center for Behavioral Neurobiology, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, San Diego, California, and

**Dr. Richard F. Thompson**, Professor of Psychobiology, University of California at Irvine.

**Dr. William J. Tietz, Jr.** became President of Montana State University in Bozeman on August 1. Previously, Dr. Tietz had been Professor and Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University.

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