REMEMBERING
ANDY VAN DE VEN

Professor Andrew Van de Ven passed away on April 30, 2022 at the age of 76 after a battle with leukemia. Andy's collegiality, his dedication to scholarship, and his commitment to the welfare of our field were unmatched. Andy's research contributions were celebrated by distinguished scholar awards from three Academy of Management (AOM) divisions— Organization and Management Theory, Technology and Innovation Management, and Healthcare Management. He served as a founding senior editor of *Organization Science*, as associate editor of *Academy of Management Review*, as the founding editor of the *Academy of Management Discoveries*, and as president of AOM. His volunteer contributions were recognized in 2020 with the AOM Career Achievement Award for Distinguished Service. For a compelling portrait of Andy's background and research contributions please see Zahra (2016). We have lost a man whose scholarship, leadership, and collegial goodwill were applauded and valued throughout his academic career.

To commemorate his scholarship, I will focus this brief note on Andy's contributions to theory. Andy published theory papers in *Academy of Management Review* and other leading journals, noted in the reference list below (e.g., Poole & Van de Ven, 1989; Ring & Van de Ven, 1992; Ring & Van de Ven, 1994; Van de Ven, 1976a; Van de Ven, 1976b). What can we learn from his approach to publishing theory?

First, theory development requires engaged scholarship, "a collaborative form of inquiry in which academics and practitioners leverage their different perspectives and competencies to coproduce knowledge about a complex problem or phenomenon" (Van de Ven & Johnson, 2006: 803). Given the current emphasis on societal impact, Andy's commitment to generative and useful theory was prescient. Research collaborations between researchers and practitioners brings different conceptual frameworks to bear on real-world problems.

Second, theory development requires not just engagement with practice but alertness to anomalies. Theory construction is abductive in generating and evaluating hunches that address anomalies and that are then developed through a process of disciplined imagination (Sætre & Van de Ven, 2021).

Third, the process of developing theories requires that extensive acquaintance with prior scholarship evident in all of Andy's work. His curiosity ranged across social science to produce typologies helpful for evaluating organization theory (Astley & Van de Ven, 1986) and theories of change and development (Van de Ven & Poole, 1995).

Finally, Andy's theory development efforts reward attention because they open vistas for future research. By synthesizing ideas and alerting us to new avenues of inquiry, Andy's work brings us into conversations and possibilities hitherto undiscovered.

I know I speak for many across the Academy and beyond in saying that I will sorely miss Andy's good fellowship, enthusiasm, and inspiring company. We will remember him and continue to benefit from his many contributions to our collective endeavors.

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