In Memoriam: Peter Hartmann (1946-2020), publisher, colleague and friend

The scientific community has lost one of its special "honorary" members with the death of the publisher Peter Hartmann from Covid 19 on the 28th of April 2020, at the age of 74. Peter's passing also marks the passing of the now old-fashioned collaboration between publishers and the scientific communities they serve. Peter was instrumental to the founding of the journal Traffic in 2000 and to the flourishing of many publications in the transplantation histocompatibility field. We write as representatives of these fields to honor his memory in two of "his" journals. To us, who worked with him on these publications he was a valued friend. We fondly remember his gracious hospitality and heartfelt conversation at the flat in Sølvgade, the summer house in Tisvilde and, latterly, at his farmhouse in Møn (Figure 1), as well as at specifically-requested round tables in restaurants around the world.

Peter grew up in a household that valued books and culture, which attracted him to work in the book business. He began as an apprentice in the bookstore, Nordisk Boghandel in Copenhagen, and was subsequently employed at the Hans Reitzel Publishing House. Adventurous in spirit, and already globally oriented, Peter then moved to New York City where he obtained a job at Scribners. Returning to Denmark in 1971, Peter started working for Munksgaard in the sales department, where he rose in five years to be appointed to the management team, and then became head of medical publications. His mission was to expand that portfolio internationally, at which he was a natural success because of his infectious enthusiasm and his insistence on like-minded editors for his journals. He thrived in this role until Blackwell's (owner of Munksgaard since 1963) decided to move all their scientific publishing to Oxford in 2000, when his portfolio became part of Blackwell Publishing, then Wiley-Blackwell and now Wiley. Peter was

invited to move with his journals, but he declined and remained in Copenhagen becoming head of Gads Publisher, where he directed a complete reorganization of the company. In 2004, he started his own consulting company, Peter Hartmann Associates.

The commercial story behind the progression of Peter Hartmann's publishing portfolio and, indeed, the progression of his life's career, is an allegory for changes to the world of scientific publishing over recent years. Peter understood the complex relationship between the scientific community and those who enable the publication of their work. He understood that our work is a passion and melded it with the passion that he had for his. He highly respected our research activities and editorial contributions, while recognizing the reality that quality publication has associated expenses and gives added value by overseeing peer review. In the early incarnation of this vision, before web accessibility, Peter sought editors who brought academic value to his journals, and made sure they were financial partners in the enterprise, as well. These partnerships were mutual and gave rise to lasting friendships. Peter's personal partnership model (though not the financial one) persisted through the upheaval in the publishing world that web publishing created and the consequent reaction of the publishing industry to re-focus their business practices. Peter exemplified the best of scientific publishing as it was and his model enabled the launch of *Traffic* because of his empathy with the scientific community. His stewardship also saw the updating and rebranding of *Tissue Antigens,* now *HLA*, and the continued success of *Immunological Reviews*, amongst other journals, all in service of the histocompatibility and immunology constituencies by collaborating with "his" editors. Times move on and unfortunately it is impossible now to imagine that this type of personal relationship will continue to exist between scientists and publishers, as the current battle about fair peer review and fair publishing practice

rages, and publishers focus on cost-cutting to the detriment of the community they serve.

Peter's influence in the biomedical science community was not just because of the way in which publishing proceeded during most of his career. He exuded warmth and was generous in spirit as well as being the consummate host. Everyone who came into contact with him has a story to tell about an extracurricular adventure they were drawn into from swimming in the icy waters around Denmark with him and his partner Lotte, to enjoying smoked eel and scrambled eggs in Peter's kitchen, often requiring an afternoon nap (occasionally on the lawn) to recover, or nursing a hangover the following day.   In our household, he lives on for his story about promoting the "Famous Lamb Chops" to guests at an English country hotel to help out the proprietor who had only lamb chops in his larder, and for his recipe for cooking mushrooms (evaporate the water first). Peter will be remembered for his unique contributions to science publishing, and he will be always in our hearts.

Frances M. Brodsky, University College London

Founding co-Editor, Reviews Editor, Editorial Board Member, Traffic (2000-2020)

Peter Parham, Stanford University

Editor-in-Chief, Immunological Reviews (1996-2001)

Pernille, as publishing colleagues and Bo, as a scientific editor, were also instrumental to *Traffic* and *HLA* and all close friends of Peter. We thank James McCluskey (Editor, *Tissue Antigens*) and Mark Marsh (Founding, Co-Editor of *Traffic*) for sharing their reminiscences about Peter that we have included, and Sandra Schmid (Founding, Co-Editor of *Traffic*) for comments. They all honor Peter's memory with their direct and indirect contributions to this piece.

Figure 1: Peter Hartmann, May 2006, Møn

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