
Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison On the Death of Professor Emeritus Melvin P. Siedband

Dr. Melvin P. Siedband, Emeritus Professor of Medical Physics and Radiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, passed away at age 89 on February 1, 2018. Dr. Siedband was born on December 17, 1928. He retired in 1991 after a teaching and research career of almost 40 years.

Professor Siedband received his bachelor's degree in Math from University of Washington in 1951, thence studied at University of Maryland. Later he received his M.S. in Math from Johns Hopkins in 1970 while also working as a professional engineer. However, he was especially proud of his Ph.D. in biophysics from Medical College of Wisconsin, awarded in 1995 when he was 67 years old.

Mel spent many years performing and leading industrial research for Westinghouse and CGR Medical Corporation, a division of Westinghouse. These efforts resulted in several dozen patents in the areas of radar systems, x-ray detection, image formation, and diagnostic radiology. He was especially innovative in developing methods for precise control of the energy and output fluence of x-ray tubes and systems.

Following this successful career in industrial engineering, Mel turned to academics, joining the Department of Radiology (Medical Physics section) as an Associate Professor in 1972. Subsequently Mel was appointed as Professor of Medical Physics and Radiology in 1985. His strong engineering interests led to leadership positions in Biomedical Engineering, Graduate Committee Chairmanship, Director of the UW Biomedical Engineering Center and Chairman of the Biomedical Program during the 1980-1990 period. He played an important role in the development of our medical physics curriculum, serving as instructor during initial offerings of a dedicated course on diagnostic x-ray imaging and developing a laboratory course focused on physics tests to assure quality and safety of clinical x-ray systems. Students were especially appreciative of the direct, hands-on experience with clinical imaging equipment that they gained under Mel's tutelage. Altogether Mel was instructor for 11 different courses in medical physics and in the School of Engineering. The list includes organizing and serving as principal instructor for "Radiological Physics for Residents," a must-take course for physicians who are preparing for board examinations in radiology.

Professor Siedband retired and became Emeritus Professor of Medical Physics and Radiology in 1991. Mel was a registered Professional Engineer and was board certified in Medical Physics by the American Board of Medical Physics.

Professor Siedband was an accomplished mentor. He trained and supervised five postdoctoral fellows, eleven M.S. (BME), and five BME/ECE undergraduates.

Amongst Mel's forty patents, many focused on the pragmatic aspects of diagnostic x-ray imaging, such as image quality, portable energy sources for x-ray machines, and device quality control. Of these several are still in use today. Invariably, they include simple solutions to very complex problems, hence the significant impact on society.

Complimenting his academic impact was Mel's wonderful and ever-present sense of humor. Any casual conversation started with "...and you may have heard the story of..." You were promptly regaled by yet another humorous tale expertly told. Mel was a 38-year active member of

Madison West Rotary Club, serving as President in 1990-91. Thru-out these many years of membership, he could be counted on to deliver a weekly dose of good humor!

Most important to Mel was his family, especially Dottie, his wife of many decades. Dottie preceeded Mel's passing by just a few months, March 2017. Mel is survived by his sons Richard (Carol) and Marc (Debbie) as well as grandsons Elan, David, and Michael, granddaughter Kyla and great-grandson Pasha.

Department of Medical Physics Memorial Resolution Committee

Paul M. DeLuca, Jr., DMP Emeritus Professor

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