

With Admiration, Thanks, and Good Wishes: A Celebration of Dr. Wulf Utian

In honor of Dr. Utian's many years of stewardship and service to The North American Menopause Society (NAMS) and to Menopause Management, members of the *Menopause Management* Editorial Advisory Board, the journal's editorial staff, and several frequent contributors offer thanks and pay tribute to Dr. Utian in this compilation of personal statements.

From the start of my academic career, which has focused on menopause since the early 1980s, Dr. Utian has been my mentor, colleague, friend and supporter, as well as the inspiration that made me decide to get involved in menopausal medicine and research as a young attending fresh out of residency. A fact that is probably unknown to Wulf is that from the very first time I met him, I admired him not only because of his outstanding academic and research expertise, but also because of his vision to trail-blaze into an area of medicine (the study and management of menopause) that was only beginning to emerge at that time, thanks to his efforts. There were no other meetings I looked forward to attending more than those of the International Menopause Society, as I knew that both my clinical practice and my research breadth would be expanded after interacting with Wulf. All in all, my early interactions and collaboration with Wulf made it clear to me that he was the physician-scientist after whom I would pattern my own professional career. And even after more than 30 years of knowing Wulf, he continues to amaze and inspire me with his forward thinking, his

innovative approaches to women's health and his incredible knowledge of medicine. And all of this wisdom is also saturated with compassion, caring and humanism.

In addition to all of the wonderful ways Wulf has impacted my professional career, there is also one other personal way Wulf has helped me—interestingly, without his knowledge; he helped me overcome the white-knuckle syndrome I previously experienced every time I boarded a plane. During one of the NAMS meeting, a few of us were talking about flights we would have preferred not to be on. Wulf described a Cleveland-to-NYC flight that still brings a smile to my face. During the flight the plane hit an air pocket and descended so quickly that the oxygen masks were released from the ceiling and those with weak stomachs had immediate problems. Only one person on the plane did not appear to have a look of panic on his face; namely, the very young musician who was flying for the first time and who happened to be sitting next to Wulf. This young man seemed to be intrigued by the entire episode, tapping to the rhythm of the wildly toss-

ing plane and taking in all of the excitement in the cabin as if he were watching a movie. When the episode was finally over and the plane was out of danger, the young musician turned to Wulf and gleefully said something to the effect of, "I never realized how much fun flying is! That emergency drill was awesome." I think of that "emergency drill" every time I fly!

— *Gloria Bachmann, MD*

Associate Dean for Women's Health
Professor of Ob/Gyn and Medicine
University of Medicine and
Dentistry of New Jersey—
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School,
New Brunswick, NJ



Thank you for your leadership, inspiration and for never being afraid to "tell it like it is." Congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

— *Elizabeth Contestabile RN, BScN,
NCMP*

Nurse Educator
Shirley E. Greenberg Women's
Health Centre
The Ottawa Hospital
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



"Believe those who are seeking the truth. Doubt those who find it."

Andre Gide

This tribute to Dr. Utian is based on the legacy of his writing; I have focused

on his *Menopause Management* column, “From the Editor,” and have reread his contributions from the last 9 years’ issues. Unaided by sophisticated word-recognition technology I, nonetheless, found several consistent themes that serve as a tribute to this great thought leader and exemplary physician.

Passion and Courage: These editorials exude passion that engages the reader—we are invariably called upon to “pay attention” (and we do)! Dr. Utian’s eloquent voice consistently points out the issues and brings clarity to confusion. We feel his passion to educate in every line. Yet he also shows humility in his admirable willingness to say, “I don’t know...but we all need to think seriously about this issue.”

Concern for Patients’ Well-being: His writings show a strong and consistent insistence on providing optimal patient care. Complex issues need to be translated into best recommendations presented in the best possible way as we “sit across the desk” from the individuals in our care. He frequently cautions us to do the “right thing” by “treating only when there is a strong, clear indication” and after “balancing risks and benefits.”

Champion of Doctors “in the Trenches”: Dr. Utian regularly takes the side of the “guy in the trenches” trying to do what’s best for the menopausal patient in the face of a confusing “information frenzy” manufactured by media, industry and medical literature. He asks us to beware of the “snake-oil salesmen” of the menopause industry, whose goal is to make a living off of false claims, to carefully scrutinize what the media tell us, and to be skeptical of both what we read in the medical literature and what we are told by the pharmaceutical industry. When possible, he offers practical and sage advice. When solutions are not clear he offers sympathy for our plight, works to engage the resources of NAMS in

resolving the unknowns and encourages us to “stay tuned.”

Seeking Truth: As much as ever, Dr. Utian is committed to “Truth, Not Trends” (the title of his October 2009 tribute symposium in Cleveland). He deserves praise and gratitude for helping readers of *Menopause Management* separate wheat from chaff, and for pointing the way for us to find the kernels of truth in the very confusing world of contemporary menopause practice.

Back issues of Dr. Utian’s editorials are available on the *Menopause Management* Web site (www.menopausemgmt.com/archives.html). In them you can see why he has become an iconic leader for those of us who, every day, are trying to do the right thing for our menopause patients.

— Bruce Ettinger, MD

Senior Investigator, Division
of Research
Kaiser Permanente Medical
Care Program
Oakland, CA

Clinical Professor of Medicine and
Radiology
University of California, San Francisco



Congratulations, Wulf, on achieving yet another milestone – 20 years as Founder and Executive Director of The North American Menopause Society! Your vision in 1988 to create a medical organization dedicated to the health and quality of life of menopausal women led to greater focus on this area to the benefit of all women. You recognized that both women and clinicians needed more information and more open discussion of the symptoms and science of menopause. You saw the need, had the vision, and succeeded in making a new reality. The North American Menopause Society has in fact become the preeminent professional organization dedicated to promoting the health

and quality of life of women through an understanding of menopause.

Thank you, Wulf, for all you have done for women’s health. You are an inspiration to those following in your footsteps.

— Margery Gass, MD

Incoming Executive Director of
The North American Menopause
Society and Editor-in-Chief of

Menopause Management

[NOTE: Dr. Gass, will be writing a full statement in her first editorial in *Menopause Management*, January/February 2010.]



Wulf, you are larger than life. I must candidly admit that when I first “observed” you, when I was just another participant at a NAMS meeting, one of my first impressions was that you certainly enjoyed being in the spotlight. But I want to share another side of Wulf Utian that I have been lucky enough to see “up-close and personal” over the last 10 years. Much of this came from our 12 days in South Africa on a trip you organized for the South African Menopause Society. Your pride in your native land and your enthusiasm and generosity (as well as Moira’s) were evident immediately and throughout.

But it has been my time on the NAMS board and, most recently, as Treasurer that has given me even more insight into Wulf Utian. You absolutely care 100% about women in the transition and have clearly dedicated your professional life to them as a clinician, a teacher and a researcher. NAMS is your child, your vision—a multidisciplinary society dedicated solely to advancing women’s health through midlife and beyond. The Society and its educational mission, both professional and consumer, will live on and help to continue a vision that began for you in a little clinic in Capetown in 1967. That was the year I

The greatest contribution an individual can provide is to "...be of use..." Thank you, Dr. Utian, for being "of use" and, even if you were not aware, for being one of my foremost medical mentors.

— *Michael P. Goodman, MD, CMP, CCD*
Caring For Women Wellness Center
Davis, CA



Wulf Utian is a person of rare qualities, which he has employed to great benefit for the field of women's health. I have known him from relatively few contacts working on panels and scientific review groups; in those, his attention was focused on the larger ideas about menopause and hormonal consequences, his scientific savvy was very keen, and his concern about patient benefit was primary. I really appreciate

the fact that part of what drives his interest has been curiosity about how the body and the brain work; it keeps his thinking and his work fresh and renewed. Wulf can also calmly direct and succeed with large projects involving many colleagues, and top-notch colleagues at that. He engenders confidence and trust. He remains willing to improve on past results, having entered the field before it was really a coalesced topic. He has shown kindness to colleagues with illness. I very much like and admire him and am grateful our paths have crossed. He ought to be very proud of the legacy he offers us all.

— *Julia R. Heiman, PhD*
Director, Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction
Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

Indiana University
Bloomington, IA



Last month in my office, Fredi Kronenberg reminisced about the early days of NAMS. Fredi, Wulf, and Marcha Flint organized the 1989 New York Academy of Sciences meeting that gave birth to our Society. One can only imagine the frenetic activity required to establish a legal and administrative infrastructure, raise money and cultivate a membership. I glean that Wulf was like the Little Red Hen of Little Golden Book renown. When committees were formed, where action was needed, Wulf would ask for help. If none was forthcoming—as apparently was sometimes the case—Wulf's response was, according to Fredi, "Well, then, I'll do it myself." And he did.

I suspect that Wulf became accus-



Specialized Women's Health Opportunity The OB/GYN and Women's Health Institute at Cleveland Clinic is seeking a full time dedicated staff member in Specialized Women's Health. The successful candidate must have significant women's health experience and/or have completed women's health fellowship training.

This position balances clinical and academic responsibilities along with the potential for faculty appointment at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Opportunities in clinical research are available as well as career development and leadership experience.

Cleveland Clinic Center for Specialized Women's Health offers an interdisciplinary program focusing on menopausal risk assessment, menstrual and hormonal disorders, postmenopausal osteoporosis evaluation and treatments, urinary incontinence, FSD, evaluation of the high risk breast patient and is part of the OB-GYN and Women's Health Institute. The Center for Specialized Women's Health is home to national Speaking of Women's Health, www.speakingofwomenshealth.com and the interdisciplinary women's health fellowship.

The same vitality that characterized Cleveland Clinic extends to many aspects of life in Greater Cleveland. The melting-pot culture that has helped establish Cleveland as a vibrant and versatile metropolitan area adds a unique flair to the lifestyle here. The Cleveland area is a very comfortable and affordable place to live with a variety of available activities, great school systems, and a wonderful place to raise a family.

Interested candidates should forward a current copy of their CV in WORD format to the attention of:

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University of Colorado Health
Sciences Center
Medical Director, Colorado Center for
Bone Research
Denver, CO



Wulf Utian is one of the most extraordinary people I have met in my lifetime, and my only fear in writing this tribute is that I shall run out of superlatives! First, let's discuss Wulf's major "firsts."

He began the first menopause clinic and, with that, launched his quest to change the term "menopause" from a word with a very negative connotation to one used with pride by women. This was not an easy transition. He founded that first clinic in 1967; when I wrote my first book for women on menopause in 1978, I was still told by the publisher, "Women won't carry a book with menopause in the title." Yet, by 1983, after Wulf had established the first International Menopause Society, the word was highly visible on multiple books and magazines, carried with panache by fashionable women.

Certainly the 1988 founding of NAMS, this world-renowned, academic and multidisciplinary society, was a most successful "first," as were the establishment of the award-winning journal *Menopause* and the very unique journal *Menopause Management*, for which Dr. Utian has served as Editor-in-Chief for 20 years. The creation of a competency exam for menopause clinicians and educators was another important "first" that has raised the bar of the quality of care for the peri-, post- and menopausal woman. It also helps us when giving referrals to patients changing locale and to flight attendants whom we meet while working on lectures while flying to our destinations!

Without doubt, Wulf's recent overachievement (receiving one of only 11 distinguished Doctor of Science in

Medicine degrees ever given by the University of Cape Town) was a first for an MD, PhD, board-certified reproductive endocrinologist.

I was going to say that Wulf has achieved all his super, multiple accomplishments single-handedly; however, although he truly is remarkable for literally and figuratively climbing many mountains in a day (he's actually the only MAN I know who can multitask), I'm sure he agrees that he needs the support of his constant companion, sounding board and advisor—his wife, Moira. And speaking of Moira, President Obama is not the first extremely busy and over-committed man to establish "date night" with his wife. Wulf did it first! And it didn't cost NAMS one penny!

Moving on from "firsts" and into honesty and integrity, I know there is no other society that can hold up its head as high as this one, its members knowing that it has allowed no conflicts and made no compromises. Long before Senator Grassley said we shouldn't take pens from pharmaceutical companies, Wulf prevented conflict of interest issues in the organization. When the NAMS Web site was getting hundreds of thousands of hits per day, and companies were begging us to permit paid advertising on the site, he held firm.

And now—although I see from the recent Supreme Court nominee's confirmation process that it is popular to use one's previously spoken words against you—I'm going to use some of Wulf's own words in tribute.

He reduced confusion after the HERS study with one sentence: "HRT should not be used to reduce the risk of CHD in women who have CHD."

He was unafraid to make two very important points after the publication of the WHI: "The manner in which the study was terminated was poorly planned, abrupt and inhumane," and the "risk to women was actually low—

less than 1%." He then listed what we might take away from the study data and how to use this information to individualize a patient's needs.

In 2004, after the WHI report on HT and osteoporotic fractures diminished its importance, he pointed out that diseases aren't necessarily equal, and that when we "base decisions solely on artificial indices such as the 'Global Health Index' of the WHI we compromise our right to be health 'care' providers."

By the end of 2004, when the mantra had become "evidence-based medicine," Wulf stated, "It is impossible to complete any evidence-based clinical research in any area of medical science that incorporates all populations..." indicating that medicine is an art, not an algorithm.

And now my personal favorite: standing up to Senator Grassley. "If individuals (who have worked extensively in a field) were not the ones invited to share their expertise, who could serve as experts in their place?" and "...politicians, understanding the hard facts in their own world, assume that professionals, like physicians, are as easily influenced and biased as they may be by donated funds to support their special interests."

I'll end on that note, and with publicly voicing appreciation and thanks from me and from Richard Nachtigall (together representing caring for women for 85 years) to Wulf Utian for always being there to fight the battle for the rights of both women and the doctors who care for them.

—Lila E. Nachtigall, MD
Professor of Obstetrics
and Gynecology
New York University School
of Medicine
New York, NY



Dear Wulf: Everyone has in-built alarms. For some it is the frisson caused

guys sitting on the stage—the officers. I thought, “There’s something wrong with this picture. Where are the women?”

But I kept coming to NAMS year after year because I heard outstanding speakers addressing all aspects of the health and well-being of women so we could help them as they navigated the menopause transition. The presentations were academically rigorous and always ran on time—audiovisual glitches were addressed—and Wulf was in the front overseeing it all, always. As the years marched on, NAMS evolved into a destination for me and other multidisciplinary healthcare professionals—many women and some men. We traveled every year to get our fix of cutting-edge menopause science and medicine. But way more important, we have had the opportunity to share our clinical challenges and discoveries. We could whine about negotiating the complex terrain of the business of health care. And we even partied a little.

I will leave it to others to talk about Wulf’s many accomplishments: his commitment to excellence, his scientific contributions, his efforts to be welcoming to the international community, the wonderful journal he and Isaac Schiff have given us. Rather, I, as a progressive feminist, would like to personally thank him for creating a community where the menopausal woman is studied, supported and celebrated.

—*Marcie K. Richardson, MD*
 Director, Menopause
 Consultation Service
 Harvard Vanguard Medical Association
 Boston, MA



Dear Wulf,

It was a day in the mid-1970s. I had just come to work sometime before as

a psychiatrist at MacDonald Hospital for Women in Cleveland, with a major interest in women’s mental health. This day there was someone new—a handsome, young man with a South African accent at a desk near mine—and that man was you. That began what was to be a wonderful, long association for me with a colleague, a mentor, a chair, an advisor and a friend.

I wonder if you recall one of the first patients you ever referred to me. She was a very depressed perimenopausal woman—professional and very articulate. She had an obsessional personality, and complained to me, “No one ever listens to me.” Having just met you, and not knowing much about you, I assured her, “I’m sure Dr. Utian will listen. He’s very good at that.” She returned to you shortly with a 4-page, single-spaced typewritten set of questions, which you gently and patiently began to answer. She soon had heard what she needed and told me I was right; you were an excellent clinician for her. I was convinced that this was the last patient anyone would ever send to me. But she wasn’t. And we went on to care for women’s mental health needs combined with their physical problems, as well as the research, and the education of generations of students, residents, physicians, nurses and others.

I send my congratulations to you and Moira, and thank you both for all you have done. Fondly,

—*Miriam B. Rosenthal, MD*
 Associate Professor of Psychiatry and
 Reproductive Biology
 Case Western Reserve University
 School of Medicine
 University MacDonald
 Women’s Hospital
 Cleveland, OH



Wulf, capturing your contribution to the field of menopause in a brief

statement is impossible, but worthy of a good try. I began my association with NAMS when I was seeking accurate and current information about menopause needed for NIH research. Over the years I came to know NAMS as the organization that provides science without an agenda and deals with the breadth of subjects relevant to menopause with sensitivity and respect for women. When I began attending the meetings I found an organization designed to educate about women’s health at midlife, with a leader committed to bringing together the science to address the issues needed to improve the quality of life of women around and post menopause. When I read the publications I found a consistent quality of information and journalism that included the diversity of scientists and topics needed to address the key issues. And consistent across all aspects of NAMS was the leadership requiring and representing excellence.

As I had the opportunity to know you and work with you directly I learned I could count on your candor and expect you to deal straight with an issue. Your professional network positioned NAMS to be responsive to emerging issues and your responses informed women and helped them understand confusing science and conflicting information. You are a prolific writer and international speaker, and with you as Executive Director, NAMS emerged as a leader to inform and educate women about menopause and beyond. Your vision led NAMS to help women as they sorted through the issues related to their health and made the decisions to achieve their health goals. As a nurse, I am proud and grateful that NAMS reflects a truly multidisciplinary perspective and welcomes appropriate specialties and disciplines to address the issues.

Wulf, no one who knows you expects you to fade away in retirement. I

wish for you a time that you can make choices about your activities and time with family, yet continue to contribute to the field of menopause at the level you choose. Not only have you made contributions as a scientist, a scholar, a leader and a person with integrity and conviction, you have also contributed with creativity and innovation that has resulted in outcomes not previously even envisioned. You saw that women as well as providers needed to have access to accurate science, and you developed the strategies, including the organization and publications, to make it happen. Thank you. May the years ahead be filled with satisfaction, joy and good health.

— *Marilyn Rothert, PhD, RN, FAAN*
Dean and Professor, College of Nursing
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI



Dear Wulf,

Whenever, during my training years, I came across a paper on menopause that significantly added to our understanding of the subject, your name, your

friendship and love even continental distances will do nothing to diminish. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Lots of love,

— *Isaac Schiff, MD*
Joe Vincent Meigs Professor
Harvard Medical School
Chief, Vincent Memorial Obstetrics
and Gynecology Service
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA



Upon graduating from residency, I decided to commit myself to an academic career, including education and research, with a major focus on menopause. In line with that, I have been attending the NAMS Annual Meeting regularly. I vividly recall the first day of the first NAMS meeting I attended. I met Dr. Utian, who was so enthusiastic and excited that I, as a young clinician and researcher, was attending the meeting. He encouraged me about the work in the abstracts I was presenting and promised to involve me in the Society's activities. Each year he checked with me and acknowledged

opportunities to work with him in the future. Dr. Utian, thanks so much for everything.

— *Peter F. Schnatz, DO, FACOG, FACP, NCMF*
Associate Chairman and Residency
Program Director
The Reading Hospital and
Medical Center
Department of OB/GYN
Reading, PA



Wulf,

You may not realize it (because we often don't see ourselves as clearly as others see us), but among your many, many (TNTC) accomplishments, and buried within each and every one, is an extraordinary sense of good judgment—judgment, so superior that it couldn't have been entirely learned. Refined by education and experience, yes—but somehow partially innate. Some of us, for better or worse, allow our emotions, or history, or our egos to cloud our judgment, but, Wulf, you somehow always manage the restraint necessary to keep your wits about you when it really counts. To me this trait was most notable, when despite personal attacks on your knowledge and integrity in the aftermath of the 2002 WHI reports, you responded to your critics with well-thought out, timely rejoinders, often filled with humor—sometimes sarcastic in tone, but humor nonetheless. Your “bully pulpit” in this journal (as you yourself call your editorial in *Menopause Management*), often displays the best examples of both your judgment and your sense of humor. Wulf, I salute you for taking a God-given talent—your judgment—honing it and refining it and using that judgment in every aspect of both your personal and professional lives. Without such skills, we all would have been worse off. All the best to you

I learned that I could count on your candor and expect you to deal straight with an issue. — *Marilyn Rothert, PhD, RN, FAAN*

very fingerprint, was inevitably on it. I was, thus, already in awe of you when we eventually met. I have had the privilege and honor now of working with you these many, many years, and all I can say is that my respect and admiration have grown and grown with each encounter. Still, what is indelibly marked in my memory, and will ever remain marked, aren't your contributions to the field of menopause—as important as they will ever be—but is, rather, the friendship and love I feel for you and Moira, a

my work over the prior 12 months. His promise has been kept as he has remained in contact with me each year at the meetings, has steadily challenged me with new organizational opportunities and, despite his many commitments, has taken time to speak with me one on one, providing advice and counsel. Dr. Utian has become a role model and a mentor for me. While I, as everyone at NAMS, will miss him in his current roles, I know he will not be far away and I look forward to more op-

and yours as you transition to new challenges.

—*James A. Simon, MD*
Clinical Professor of Ob/Gyn
George Washington University School
of Medicine
Medical Director
Women's Health & Research
Consultants
Washington, DC



Wulf,

When I think of all that you have accomplished, one word jumps into my mind: "vision." You had the vision to start the first menopause clinic in the world, the vision to realize the importance of good health for a growing postmenopausal population and the vision to found The North American Menopause Society. Great vision is nothing, however, without the willingness to work hard to accomplish goals. Add to that your unbelievable ability to sense the political winds and to bring consensus from disparate points of view and personalities. You have my respect and admiration, but just as importantly, my friendship. As both of our careers wind down, I always know you and I will have something important to talk about: Cleveland Sports!!

Your friend and colleague,

—*Leon Speroff, MD*
Associate Director, Women's Health
Research Unit
Department of Obstetrics &
Gynecology
Oregon Health and Science University
Portland, OR



Dear Wulf,

In 1987, several years before we would meet face to face, I was "introduced" to you during my fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology. As I

searched the medical literature for a talk aptly entitled "Hormonal Replacement Therapy during Menopause" in preparation for our UCSD Endocrine-Metabolism Conference, your name kept appearing. I realized that you were, indeed, the predominant mover and shaker of the menopause world. It was thrilling to receive your letter in November, 1989, notifying me that I had been selected as a Founding Member of the North American Menopause Society, the unique, timely, multidisciplinary organization that you established. At the 1991 NAMS meeting in Montreal, when I finally had the chance to meet you in person, I found you then, as now, Wulf, to be larger than life. Your contagious enthusiasm, unwavering conviction, thoughtful analyses, and complete and utter commitment to the NAMS mission to promote the health and quality of life of women through an understanding of menopause set an example for us all. In the years that have passed since the inception of NAMS you have continued to establish new educational initiatives, cultivate research explorations and secure relationships with our North American and international colleagues. The unequivocal success and stature of NAMS reflect your vision and strategic prowess. As you consider the incredible evolution of the first 2 decades of NAMS, I hope you realize how profoundly you personally have affected the science, practice and politics of menopause.

As NAMS comes of age and enters its 21st year, so, too, have our challenges evolved. While we negotiate the shifting tides of medical practice, increased scrutiny of relationships with the pharmaceutical industry and global fiscal challenges, we will be ever mindful of the priorities you set forth in the early years of NAMS. We will work steadfastly to follow your pas-

sions, principles and practices.

While we shall miss you dearly, Wulf, your legacy lives on in all of us who have worked so closely by your side. The best is yet to come.

With sincere good wishes as you and Moira as you anticipate the next chapter of your lives together.

—*Cynthia A. Stuenkel, MD*
Clinical Professor of Medicine
Department of Medicine
Division of Endocrinology
and Metabolism
University of California, San Diego



A Poem of Tribute

There is a gentleman from South
Africa
Who noticed menopause in America
Was generally ignored
And poorly thought out
So no easy plan would he tout
A society he planned
Which is now known as NAMS

Thank you, Wulf, from all of
your fans!

—*Michelle P. Warren, MD*
Professor of Medicine, and Obstetrics
and Gynecology
Medical Director, Center for
Menopause, Hormonal Disorders and
Women's Health
Department of Obstetrics and
Gynecology
Columbia College of Physicians and
Surgeons
New York, NY



It's been a pleasure joining Dr. Utian's visionary effort to help bring issues of vital importance in women's health to clinicians. Through adversity, dogged determinism and tenacity, countless numbers of women have benefited because of his efforts. He

truly has made a unique impact throughout the world.

— *Robert Wild, MD, PhD, MPH*

Professor of Reproductive Endocrinology
Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Adjunct Professor of Medicine (Cardiology)
Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center
Oklahoma City, OK



I thank Wulf Utian for his leadership in women's health, specifically menopause, over the past 20 years. Not only did he bring The North American Menopause Society into existence by enlisting like-minded colleagues, he also led the development of an organization with significant programs that have been sustained over two decades. His leadership promoted NAMS staff and members to develop and offer annual educational programs for health professionals, enhancing the understanding of menopause and healthy aging in an interprofessional and interdisciplinary atmosphere. He promoted NAMS' efforts in creating educational resources about menopause for women themselves, including development of the *Menopause Guidebook*, now available in English, Spanish and Braille. The development of the core curriculum for Menopause Clinicians and the related certification exam helps assure that women receive care for menopause issues from well-informed clinicians, and that those with prescriptive authority have an evidence-based approach to their care.

Above all, Wulf led the development of a mechanism to allow NAMS to be supported by multiple stakeholder groups, with final authority over the program directed by a diverse board. Thank you, Wulf, for your high-integrity leadership and for helping NAMS flourish in the midst of challenging times.

— *Nancy Fugate Woods, PhD, RN, FAAN*

Dean, School of Nursing
Professor, Family and Child Nursing
Director, Center for Women's Health Research
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

The staff of *Menopause Management* joins members of the Editorial Advisory Board and Dr. Utian's colleagues in congratulating him on the many achievements and accomplishments in his long and fruitful career, and we thank him for his devotion and dedication to the well-being of women everywhere. Working with him over the years has been both a pleasure and an education. It's hard to imagine *Menopause Management* without Dr. Utian at the helm. We will miss him, and we wish him and his family all the best in this new and exciting time of life. ■



Different women.
Same questions.
One source
for answers.

Searching for answers about menopause can be a challenge. Our Web site provides accurate, unbiased information regarding the latest research and expert recommendations. Visit our site to connect to better health through menopause and beyond.

