

# In Memoriam: Patrick Sim, M.L.S., Librarian at the Wood Library-Museum

*By Stephen Jackson, M.D., Editor*

The American Society of Anesthesiologists lost a dear friend, Patrick Pui-Kam Sim, M.L.S., on October 14, 2010, just short of the day that he was to be honored by the *Patrick Sim Forum on the History of Anesthesiology* at this year's ASA Annual Meeting. For nearly four decades Patrick was Librarian (and later the Paul M. Wood Distinguished Librarian) at the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology (WML) in Park Ridge, Illinois. He retired on March 31, 2010. His encyclopedic knowledge of anesthesia history, combined with his gentle spirit and enthusiasm for learning, has been the guiding spirit behind many historians and their projects. A friend to all, Patrick had overseen the tremendous growth of the WLM into a world-class specialty library and museum housing an extensive and unique collection of artifacts related to the history of anesthesiology. Patrick was truly beloved the world over for his gentle and generous spirit, and his humble and selfless devotion to anesthesia history and the WLM. Patrick was a long-time friend of mine, as he was to so many anesthesiologists, and I will miss my extended phone calls with him as well as his smiling and welcoming persona at the Annual Meetings.

I would like to quote the beautiful tribute of Kathryn McGoldrick, M.D., Co-Chair of the WLM Publications Committee, shortly before his passing:

*Patrick is such a thoughtful, knowledgeable, yet humble colleague, and graceful friend that it is challenging to pinpoint the traits I most admire and love in his character. After much reflection, I have decided to highlight his wisdom and kindness. Patrick is the hub about which many lives revolve, a pillar of unobtrusive support, insight, and goodness to any and all who need his personal or professional assistance. Patrick is not only universally admired and respected: he is truly beloved by all who are blessed to be part of his world.*

