

Letter to the Editor

In Memorium: Professor Rodger Haggitt

Sometimes fate plays tragic games. This is certainly the case in the tragic death of the late Rodger Haggitt, Professor of Pathology at the University of Washington. Professor Haggitt's life was violently terminated last June in his office on the campus of the University of Washington Medical Center, when one of his residents shot him and then committed suicide.

Certainly Rodger was a victim of the violence which characterizes modern society. Only a few days before Rodger had been invited to participate in the international GI Oncology Congress held on the island of Kos. He delivered a speech on Barrett's oesophagus, a topic which was his particular research interest and for which his department was the referral center for the U.S.A. and the entire world.

I met Rodger Haggitt some years ago in the United States during one of the AGA meetings, but my admiration for him began many years ago through his numer-

ous publications in peer review journals. Indeed, Rodger will be remembered for his vast scientific contribution as judged by many papers, chapters and books and countless lectures both in the U.S.A. and abroad. Those of us who were honored by his friendship appreciated his inspiring personality, his devotion to his family and traditional values, his ability to communicate, whether in delivering a lecture or in friendly conversation and his love for our country which he often showed in his knowledge of Greek history and medicine. Indeed, in his visit abroad, to Kos, he was enthusiastic about Hippocrates' historic island.

We will miss our dear friend Rodger Haggitt as much as the medical scientific community will miss the Professor of Pathology, but most of all he will be missed by his family.

One of his friends
Th. Rokkas