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## IN MEMORIAM

R. J. Michael Fry, MD  
1925–2017



Richard Jeremy (Michael) Fry died peacefully Friday, November 24, 2017, at age 92. He and his wife Shirley, three sons and their families, including eight grandchildren, had celebrated Thanksgiving together just the day before.

Michael was that rare individual, a gentle scientific giant, trailblazer and true gentleman. He was a lovely man with a keen wit and sense of humor, brilliant, and he made you laugh! For all of us who were fortunate enough to have known him, Michael was a source of inspiration, a model of scientific integrity, graciousness and humility.

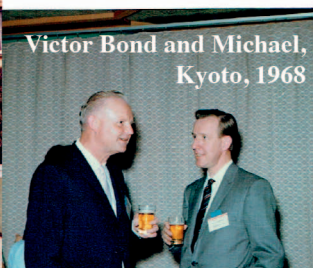
Michael came from the land of leprechauns and enjoyed entertaining and convincing children of the existence and powers of the “little people”, which he kept safely in his pocket. He was born in Dublin in 1925 and his alma mater was the University of Dublin, Trinity College. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1946, his medical degree in 1949 and his postgraduate M.D. in 1962. He spent 10 years as a teacher of physiology at the University of Dublin Medical School. He was an avid sports enthusiast, participating in hockey, tennis and golf, and had a passion for hill climbing. During his time teaching at the medical school, Michael became infatuated with a young English woman named Shirley Jackson. They were happily married for well over 50 years. Shirley became an accomplished professional, and was actively involved in radiation science and in leadership, including serving as the Assistant Director of the Medical Science Division of Oak Ridge Associated Universities from 1980 until 1995. Together, Michael and Shirley provided an outstanding example of a highly successful two-career family in science, when such examples were few and far between.



Michael Fry in the early 1960s



Michael at St. John's College, University of Oxford, 1962



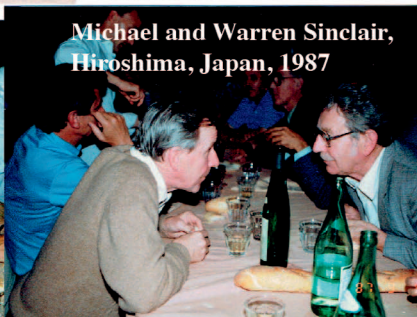
Victor Bond and Michael, Kyoto, 1968



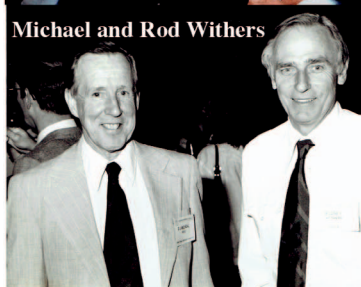
COSPAR/NASA meeting, Helsinki, Finland



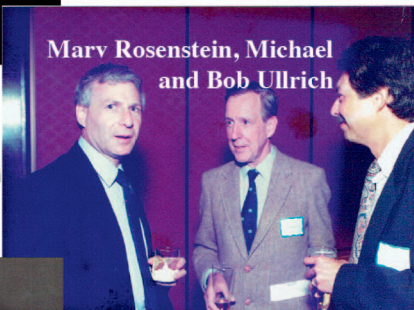
Michael and Albrecht Kellerer, Hiroshima, Japan, 1987



Michael and Warren Sinclair, Hiroshima, Japan, 1987



Michael and Rod Withers



Mary Rosenstein, Michael and Bob Ullrich

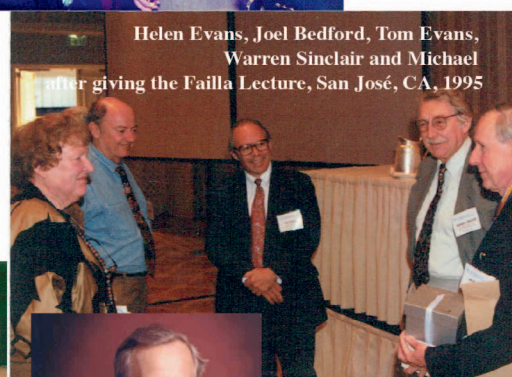


Art Upton and Michael, Bethesda, MD, 1990

RRS Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, 1994



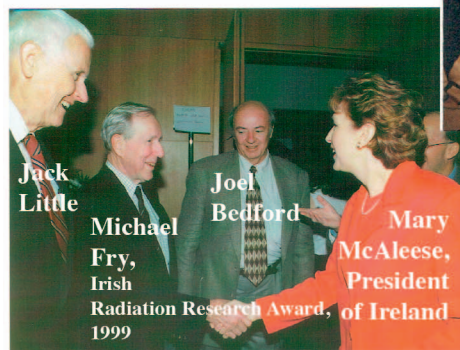
Charles Meinhold presenting Michael with the Taylor Lecturer Award, Washington DC, 1994



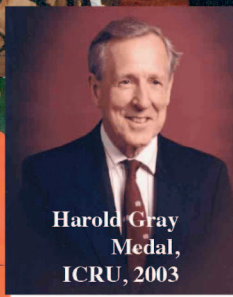
Helen Evans, Joel Bedford, Tom Evans, Warren Sinclair and Michael after giving the Failla Lecture, San José, CA, 1995



Susan Wallace and Michael, Dublin, 1999



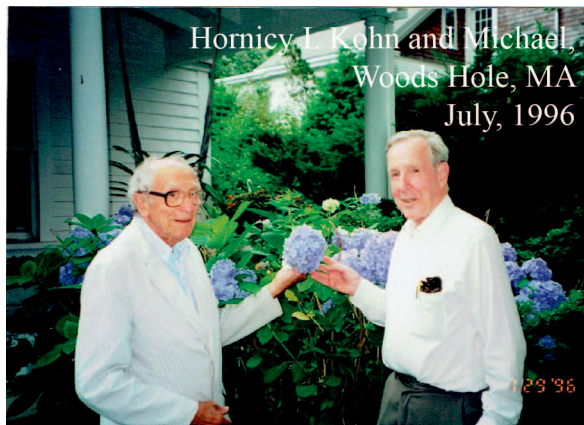
Jack Little, Michael Fry, Joel Bedford, Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, Irish Radiation Research Award, 1999



Harold Gray Medal, ICRU, 2003



Michael and some of the greats from yesteryear. L to R, Warren Sinclair, Michael Fry, Seymour Abramson, Seymour Jablon, Bob Miller, unknown, Jack Fabrikant, Vic Bond, Herb Parker, unknown, George Hutchison, Abe Lilenfeld, Brian MacMahon, Mike Bender, unknown, Oddvar Nygaard, unknown, unknown, unknown; Standing L to R, Bill Blot, unknown, unknown, Gil Beebe.



Hornicy I. Kohn and Michael,  
Woods Hole, MA  
July, 1996



Michael and Shirley Fry,  
NCRP, 2009



Michael and Shirley Fry with their  
Grandchildren, November 23, 2017

Michael's first venture to the United States was as a research associate at Argonne National Laboratory (1960–1962) where he first met Warren Sinclair, another giant in the field. Warren encouraged Michael to work in carcinogenesis, and they and their wives (Joy and Shirley) became lifelong friends. Michael returned to Argonne in 1970 as a Senior Scientist and did ground-breaking work on cell kinetics in the gastrointestinal tract with Sam Leshner and Henry Kohn. Then, and much to Warren's delight, Michael became head of the Argonne Biology Division's Carcinogenesis Section, as well as Professor of Radiology at the University of Chicago. In 1977, he moved to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and became head of the Carcinogenesis Section within the Biology Division until stepping down in 1991.

Michael served on virtually all national and international committees that dealt with radiobiology and radiation protection: National Academy of Sciences committees (e.g., Board on Radiation Effects), the National Institutes of Health Radiation Study Section, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the International Association of Radiation Research (IARR) and the International Commission on Radiological Protection (1985–2001), where he chaired the ICRP Committee 1 task group on the biological basis for dose limitation of the skin (ICRP Publication 59). He served on many committees for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) where he played a special leadership role in the radiobiology of space radiation, establishing many of the criteria used by NASA for space radiation protection. Both NASA's Human Research Program and the radiation protection approach, which he helped guide for human space flight, owe Michael a lasting debt. Michael is quoted as saying, "It was a lot of committees but membership was a great educational experience".

Michael was a leader and guiding light for the Radiation Research Society (RRS) for well for over 50 years. He was on the Editorial Board of *Radiation Research* (1967–1971) and then Editor-in-Chief (1988–1997). He chaired the committee on late effects (1967–1974), served on the nominating committee (1969) and the research awards selection committee (1973) and was a Council member (1975–1978). He particularly enjoyed being Editor-in-Chief of *Radiation Research*, a role that seemed more his destiny than any accident of fate. To the editorial staff, Michael will be remembered as a kind, gentle and generous man, who would humbly request that they "not make a fuss" over him!

In 1995, Michael was the 32nd Failla lecturer, the highest honor bestowed by the Radiation Research Society, and his topic was "Skin Deep". Michael will long be remembered within the RRS for his many contributions, which were further recognized when the Society renamed its "Research Award" in his honor. Since 1996, the award is known to all as the

“Michael Fry Research Award”, and is the highest award given to early career radiation researchers to recognize outstanding contributions to science. The decision to modify the name of the award was particularly fitting because of Michael’s well-known mentorship of so many developing scientists. For trainees and early career scientists, he provided a wealth of assistance, which included gentle guidance in both writing and critical thinking. Most important was Michael’s unusual gift of letting you know he was keenly interested in your work and that he had faith in you, both as a person and as a scientist. This special legacy to many budding scientists would extend for decades afterward.

Michael was also a guiding beacon for the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP). He came to the NCRP in 1977 and his first committee work produced NCRP Report No. 64 on “The Influence of Dose and its Distribution in Time on Dose-Response Relationships for Low-LET Radiations” (1980). Michael became a Council member in 1981 and was elected as distinguished emeritus member in 1993. He was on the NCRP Board of Directors (1990–1993), chaired the 1987 annual meeting program committee, and in 1994, delivered the 32nd Lauriston S. Taylor lecture (“Mice, Myths, and Men”), the highest honor bestowed by the NCRP. Michael’s humanity is well remembered by the NCRP staff. At every annual meeting and every time he came to the NCRP office, he brought flowers as an expression of his appreciation, including to those who might otherwise have gone unrecognized.

Michael also never lost his curiosity, his almost childlike wonder at how the world works. He continued to learn and grow intellectually. We shall miss working with Michael, his sharp twinkling mind, his good sense and verve, and his ability to make us laugh. Rarely does one have the opportunity to bask in the brilliance of both greatness and humility.

Michael influenced so many careers and was an inspiration to so many individuals, family members, friends and colleagues. It was the personal relationships that were so very much enjoyed and which will be missed most of all. He was indeed a treasure to his family, to his friends and to the world. The world is in a much better place because of Michael.

Michael is survived by his loving wife Shirley, three sons (and their wives), Peter (Elizabeth), Edward (Kathy) and Patrick (Nikki) and eight grandchildren.

John D. Boice, Jr.

*National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements*

Amy Kronenberg,

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Robert L. Ullrich,

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