

**It is with regret that the editors and the authors of this special issue of *Photosynthesis Research* announce that André Pirson and Lawrence Bogorad, two pioneers of photosynthesis research passed away while this issue was in preparation.**

**André Pirson (1910–2004)**, a highly respected scholar and a pioneer of algal physiology and photosynthesis, trained more than 50 doctoral students. Photosynthesis researchers remember him for his pioneering work on the role of manganese in photosynthetic oxygen evolution; he is also known for the ‘exploitation’ of synchronous cultures of algae, for the mechanism of synchrony and the metabolic changes during the life cycle. He was a member of the Akademie der Wissenschaften, Göttingen and the Leopoldina Academy in Halle/Saale. For his varied contributions, see his *Personal Perspective* (Sixty years in algal physiology and photosynthesis) in *Photosynth Res* **40**: 207–221 (1994).

**Lawrence Bogorad (1921–2003)**, Professor Emeritus of Biology at Harvard University, pioneered the introduction of molecular techniques to understand photosynthesis and the biogenesis of the chloroplast: he was the first to derive a restriction map of a chloroplast DNA (maize) and the first to determine the sequence of a plant gene for a known protein (*rbcL* for the large subunit of Rubisco). He was a former President of the American Society of Plant Physiology and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the National Academy of Sciences, USA. See his *Personal Perspective* (Photosynthesis research: advances through molecular biology—the beginnings, 1975–1980s and on. . . ) in *Photosynth Res* **76**: 1–33 (2003).