

## Edwin A. Richard 1953-2016



Ed was born on February 22, 1953, in Washington D.C., grew up in Washington State and as a child spent many summers in Aquebogue, New York. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1975 and received his PhD in 1985 from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he met his wife, Radha Iyengar. He continued his scientific career at Brandeis University as a Senior Researcher working on ion channels, fundamental mechanisms of photoreceptor function, and more recently in the area of learning and memory.

Ed had a broad range of interests, many hobbies, and read voraciously throughout his life. He was an amateur naturalist, and was fascinated by India, which he visited many times over the years with his wife and sons. He loved music, especially classical Indian music. He was an avid supporter and member of the Board of Directors of MIT Heritage Arts of Southasia (MITHAS), a group that organizes and promotes Indian classical music concerts in the Boston area. He was a Belmont Town Meeting member since 2009 with a perfect attendance record. He baked outstanding apple pies, a recipe he perfected while living in Madison by baking and eating three pies a week to fuel a short amateur bicycle racing career. Ed was a steadfast Progressive and environmentalist – he lived his life with the aim of protecting the planet.

Edwin Allen Richard died suddenly on June 26, 2016, at home in Belmont, Massachusetts. He will be remembered for his ability to deliver an extemporaneous discourse on almost any subject. Above all else, he was an extraordinarily kind, gentle and generous soul who will be greatly missed.