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CONSTRUCTIVE APPROXIMATION

OBITUARY

Peter Benjamin Borwein (May 10, 1953–August 23, 2020)

With great sadness, we record the passing of Peter Borwein, a strikingly innovative thinker in approximation theory, number theory, and computational and experimental mathematics, as well as a wonderful colleague and human being. Peter served as an associate editor for *Constructive Approximation* from 1995 to 2009.

Peter was born in St. Andrews, Scotland into a mathematical family; both his father and brother were distinguished mathematicians. Peter completed his B.Sc. at the University of Western Ontario and his M.Sc. and Ph.D at University of British Columbia, with David Boyd as supervisor. He held a postdoc at Oxford University which was followed by a position at Dalhousie University. In 1993, he and his brother joined Simon Fraser University where they established the Center for Experimental and Constructive Mathematics (CECM), and later the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Mathematical and Computational Sciences (IRMACS).

His many impactful publications include the Bailey–Borwein–Plouffe formula published in 1997, his 2007 paper with Dobrowolski and Mossinghoff in *Annals of Mathematics*, and his 2008 paper with Tamas Erdelyi, Ronald Ferguson, and Richard Lockhart also in *Annals.* Peter was also an excellent expositor. His book with Tamas Erdelyi, *Polynomials and Polynomial Inequalities*, is a classic and his books on Pi, the

Riemann Hypothesis, computation in analysis and number theory, and his dictionary of real numbers, confirm his originality, good taste and writing skills. He won the Mathematical Association of America's Hasse and Chauvenet prizes in 1993, along with David Bailey and Jonathan Borwein.

Peter was also an excellent speaker, with a dry sense of humor. He mentored students at all levels. He courageously faced a long battle with multiple sclerosis, doing mathematics as long as was possible. He will be sorely missed.