



In Memoriam

Matthew G. Karlaftis

Passed away on 4 June 2014

I met Matthew for the first time during a nice enjoyable dinner at the Third International Conference on Road Safety and Simulation in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2011. Having read many of his papers in the past and, as so often happens, I had an image of him that did not correspond at all to the young man I met. He was radically not the “old researcher” I envisioned him to be considering his wide and incredibly impressive scientific production. He was friendly and pleasant and a real gentleman. We were both associate professors close in age and quickly became collaborators on several scientific activities. Only a few days before his death, we exchanged e-mails regarding our joint project to publish a Special Issue of *Transportation Research Part C* consisting of a selection of papers presented at the Fourth International Conference on Road Safety and Simulation that was hosted in Rome in 2013. That Special Issue is now in publication thanks to his dedication and hard work. I served as general chairman for that Fourth Conference and invited Matthew for the opening and closing sessions, and to this day I have a great memory of his participation in the conference. He was an outstanding researcher, one of the most prolific authors in our field of research, and a great professor; but, most of all, beyond his significant and essential contribution to the science, I will always remember him as a good friend. (Andrea)

My first memories of Matt go back to the year when he was a graduate student in the Purdue School of Civil Engineering in West Lafayette, Indiana. We worked together on a paper later published in *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. I recall him from that time as a bright, efficient, and courteous young man with a never disappearing warm smile. That image of him did not change over the years when we collaborated on organizing conferences or bumped into each other at various occasions from our overlapping areas of work. His enthusiasm, collegiality, and instant readiness to help anyone in need were exceptional. Matt has left a great void in our profession and among his friends. (Andrew)

All of us remember and appreciate Professor Karlaftis for his long and significant research experience in a variety of scientific areas related to transportation operations and quantitative methods. He has participated in many national, European, and international research projects and is the co-author of an international best-selling book on transportation statistics and econometrics, book chapters, peer reviewed journal papers, and papers in conference proceedings. He has served

as Editor-in-Chief for *Transportation Research Part C*, one of the most prestigious scientific journals around the world. He also served as European Editor of ASCE's *Journal of Transportation Engineering*, Associate Editor of ASCE's *Journal of Infrastructure Systems*, and editorial board member for ten other journals.

Among them, he served also as member of the Editorial Board of this journal, *Advances in Transportation Studies*, and contributed significantly to its dissemination and success. As well as he played the role of member of the Permanent Steering Committee of Road Safety and Simulation, giving a unique impulse and stimulus to the organization of the international conferences.

He received the Fulbright Scholar Grant (2006-2007), the Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Innovative Research Prize (2005, awarded by the American Society of Civil Engineers), the ABJ80 Best Paper Award for 2009 by TRB, and the 2011 ASCE State-of-the-art Award.

His very premature departure makes all of us inconsolably sad because the scientific research world has lost a protagonist, and all of us have lost an outstanding colleague and a dear friend.

We send our deepest sympathy and sincere collective prayers to his family in this time of tremendous loss.

Andrea Benedetto Andrew P. Tarko