Adnan Saleh

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It is with deep regret that we inform our readers of the death of Adnan Saleh on 19 September 1993 as a result of a sudden and acute liver thrombosis. Adnan was a Palestinian, who had been born and brought up in Kuwait. He came to Nottingham University in 1979. He obtained a B.Sc. degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering in 1980, which was followed by a Ph.D. in 1982 while working with Peter Johns on the development of a system of dedicated microprocessors for TLM modelling.

A severe shortage of financial reserves dictated that Adnan complete his Ph.D. over two years, and following his return to Kuwait he took employment in various electronics companies before establishing his own private company, which provided software. Among his achievements during this period was a split screen bilingual (e.g. English- Arabic) word processing package for the IBM PC, which sold widely in the Middle East. Following his appointment as an Associate Professor in the Physics Department at the University of Kuwait, Adnan devoted himself to research on TLM. In order to remain in close contact with mainstream research in this area, he made annual visits (self-funded) to Britain. Following the death of Peter Johns he collaborated with Peter Blanchfield at Nottingham on acoustic transmission and with Donard de Cogan at UEA Norwich. This latter partnership was particularly productive. Mention of a requirement to use TLM to model chemical reaction kinetics led Adnan to devise a suitable network. Extensions of this resulted in the multi-compartment TLM technique for solving partial differential equations. A suggestion to extend diffusion TLM to include a drift term so that it could be used in semiconductor transport modelling was further developed in Kuwait with the assistance of Miss Al-Zeben and Professor Ali-Omar.

It was during a visit to UEA Norwich that Adnan found himself a refugee from the Gulf conflict. True to character he declined the offer of temporary support funding and returned to Kuwait to help his family escape to Jordan. He succeeded in this endeavour and four days before the final land war he returned to Norwich to continue his work on the modelling of propagation in acoustic transducers.

He took a post-doctoral post with Professor Rodney Coates in Birmingham, where he continued work on these extremely complicated shear-wave supporting networks. However, for most of his time he worked on underwater acoustic systems and he greatly enjoyed the associated sea trials. Rodney Coates records that he was an outstanding and dedicated engineer, who was an inspiration to others and who was able to achieve his goal regardless of the odds.

He will be greatly missed by his research colleagues, and we offer our sincerest sympathies to his widow, Manar, who is currently completing her pharmacy qualifications in Birmingham.

Donard de Cogan