

On October 21, 1997, Chris Skinner passed away while visiting his parents in England. His sudden and untimely death was a great loss for astrophysics and especially for all his colleagues at STScI. Chris was a promising and brilliant scientist, whose recent research included dust around young stars, mass loss from evolved stars, and the origin of planetary nebulae. His paper on the Cygnus Egg Nebula, which appeared posthumously in *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, is a wonderful example of the depth and breadth of his scientific investigations.

Chris's contributions at STScI went beyond his research. He was one of the critical members of the NICMOS instrument team at STScI, and had followed the camera's progress throughout assembly and ground testing, highlighting some of the critical areas early on. He was involved in essentially all areas of the NICMOS calibration, and his work will make a huge difference in how well users will be able to take advantage of the camera's unique capabilities. He was well liked and respected for his exceptional technical skills, dedication, dry sense of humor, and ability to work effectively with other team members. His crucial role in the calibration of NICMOS can be seen in the Proceedings, in which he is involved in no less than six contributions.

This book is dedicated to the memory of Chris, as a modest tribute to his many contributions to the birth of infrared science on HST.



Christopher J. Skinner
1963–1997