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## Introductory Remarks

*This session is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Daniel B. Radner*

*Ben Bridges*

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**W**elcome to this session on “New Empirical Findings in the Distribution of Personal Income and Wealth.” The session is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Daniel B. Radner.

I’d like to begin by talking some about Dan Radner. February 13, 1998, was the date of Dan’s untimely death. Dan and I were colleagues and good friends for more than twenty years. Two other colleagues of Dan’s—Tom Petska and Kel Utendorf—are on today’s program. We are pleased that Dan’s widow, Donna, is with us today.

Dan received his Ph.D. in economics from Yale University. Before coming to the Social Security Administration’s (SSA’s) Division of Economic Research in 1974, Dan worked for eight years at the U.S. Commerce Department’s Bureau of Economic Analysis. Dan was an excellent researcher. His research focused on the economic status of families and persons as measured by size distributions of income, wealth, and combinations of income and wealth. For a number of years, he had been focusing on the economic status of the aged.

Dan made substantial contributions to the measurement of economic status; he made substantial contributions to the development of better measurement meth-

ods. He did important work on statistical matching of income tax return data to household survey data. He did key work on the measurement of economic resources and the measurement of economic needs; he examined the importance of consistency between resource and needs measures. He published many papers in professional journals, SSA outlets, and elsewhere.

Dan had strong beliefs with regard to research. He believed that estimates of economic status are likely to have important effects on economic policy. Hence, he believed it is very important to measure economic status very thoughtfully and carefully. Dan’s work always exhibited these traits.

On the table at the rear are copies of Dan’s last research paper. The paper was published in the *Social Security Bulletin* along with a photograph of Dan and a tribute to Dan written by some of his colleagues. This is the only such tribute to appear in the *Social Security Bulletin* in the last twenty years. This is an indication of how greatly Dan was valued by his colleagues at SSA.

I would like to express my thanks to Tom Petska who organized this session. Tom, a long-time friend of Dan’s, worked with Dan at SSA before Tom went to the Internal Revenue Service. Tom will now make some additional remarks about Dan.