John M. Swales was a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Michigan from 1987 to 2007, where he was also Director of its well-known English Language Institute for many years. He is widely regarded as the leading international authority in the field of English for Academic purposes. Of his many publications, particularly significant are *Genre analysis: English in academic and research settings* (1990), *Academic writing for graduate students* (with C. B. Feak (1994 & 2004), *Other floors, other voices* (1998) and *Research genres: Explorations and applications* (2004). An educational memoir will be published by the University of Michigan Press in 2009. In 2004, he was awarded a PhD honoris causa by Uppsala University, and in 2008 a special issue of the Journal of English for Academic Purposes was published in his honor. Although officially retired, he remains actively involved in several projects.