IN MEMORIAM

Asa E. Seeds, M.D.
1905-1978

Asa Elmore Seeds, a founder and the second President of The Society of Nuclear Medicine, died unexpectedly at his home on Mercer Island, Washington, on the evening of September 4, 1978. Although Dr. Seeds' health had not been robust for the past several years, he was looking forward to attending the meeting of the Western Region of The Society of Nuclear Medicine, in Vancouver, British Columbia, October 12–14, where the Founders were to be honored.

Asa Seeds was born in Columbus, Ohio, November 29, 1905, and attended public schools in Waverly, Virginia. He then attended William and Mary College in Williamsburg, and finally completed his education at the University of Virginia, where he received his M.D. degree in 1931.

From 1932 to 1936, he was at the Johns Hopkins Medical School and Hospital, first as resident in radiology and then as instructor. From 1940 to 1944, he was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiology at Baylor University Medical School in Dallas, and Director of the Tumor Clinic.

During this period, he was assigned to a military mission with the Douglas Aircraft Corporation to establish overseas military hospitals in Africa. While he was there, Baylor Medical School moved to Houston, Texas, and Dr. Seeds then became Assistant Professor of Radiology at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

In 1945, Dr. Seeds and his family moved to Vancouver, Washington, where he spent the major portion of his radiological career. Until he retired in 1970, he was Director of Radiology and Chief of Nuclear Medicine at Memorial Hospital in Vancouver.

One of Asa's great interests was cancer detection and control. From 1955 to 1960, he was Director of the Clark County Detection Center and Tumor Registry. He was on the Board and Executive Committee of the Washington Division of the American Cancer Society, and Vice Chairman of its Research Committee.

Asa very early developed an interest in the emerging science of nuclear medicine. It was while attending a nuclear medicine course at Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies in 1953 that plans were first made to organize the Pacific Northwest Society of Nuclear Medicine. He was Chairman of the By-Laws Committee. Among all of the founders, he maintained a continued interest in The Society of Nuclear Medicine. He was active as historian until his retirement in 1970 and continued to attend its meetings through the years. He was involved in the formation of the Society of Nuclear Medicine Medical Education and Research Foundation. Through an act of private philanthropy, he created an award in Dr. Wil Nelp's Department at the University of Washington to recognize achievement on the part of outstanding medical students and house-staff members in nuclear medicine. In his modest way, he did not wish to be identified with the award, but recently Dr. Nelp has received permission from the family to designate it as the Asa Seed Memorial Award. At the annual meeting of the Society in New Orleans, June 26, 1969, Asa received the Distinguished Service Award of The Society of Nuclear Medicine for his many contributions and long-continued service.

The respect he has shown in his own community is attested to by the fact that he was President of
the Clark County Medical Society and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Washington State Medical Association.

Following his retirement from private practice in Vancouver, Asa kept active by becoming associated with the Veteran's Administration, where he served as radiologist in several hospitals.

One of Asa's greatest blessings was his family. His wife, Alvina, was his beloved companion. Two sons are physicians. Asa Elmore Seeds, Jr., is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Cincinnati Medical School. Lt. Comdr. John William Seeds, U.S. Navy, is now serving in Rota, Spain, also in obstetrics and gynecology. Asa's daughter, Barbara Engel, lives nearby on Mercer Island, and another daughter, Suzee Merryman, resides in Los Angeles. A son, Robert, an electrical engineer, was tragically killed four years ago in an auto accident. Asa was greatly pleased, however with the arrival of his thirteenth grandchild just one week before he died. The family was very closely knit and the devotion he showed to them was returned manyfold to him. A very important part of his life was his church. He served on the vestry of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Vancouver, and was always ready to help, since he was a practical Christian as well as deeply spiritual.

Asa enjoyed the good life. In addition to his professional activities, he hunted, fished, cruised on the Columbia River, enjoyed skeet shooting and photography. He lived life to the fullest, and was most generous in sharing his blessings with his many friends. The most outstanding of Asa's fine qualities, however, was that he was, above all, a true gentleman. Very few men of today bring flowers to their hostess or respond to hospitality in such a charming and courtly manner as Asa did. Those of us how were privileged to know him well will miss him deeply.

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