

Tom R. Miller, MD, PhD

Tom R. Miller, MD, PhD, passed away on Wednesday, October 3, at the age of 63. Although we are personally greatly saddened by Tom's death, the purpose of this remembrance is to celebrate his life. During his illness, Tom showed amazing resilience, overcoming each obstacle as best he could, always with a smile. He was as concerned about how his illness was affecting family and friends as he was about how it was affecting him. Although Tom's life was short, he would be the first to tell you how fortunate he was to have lived such a full life with a wonderful loving family, an exciting profession, and many professional and personal friends.

Tom was raised in Lawrenceville, a small town in southeastern Illinois. His father owned an appliance store that, among other things, sold and repaired televisions. This undoubtedly led to Tom's early interest in electronics and science. He earned his undergraduate degree from the California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena, CA, in 1966 and his PhD in nuclear physics from Stanford University in 1971. During his college years he became licensed as a civilian pilot. Although he gave up flying in his later years, he remained an aficionado of flight simulators and spent some of his leisure time "flying" on his computer.

After completing his PhD, Tom was awarded a Fulbright fellowship. He spent a year studying nuclear physics in Bombay, India, accompanied by Karen Sue, his adventurous wife from a small town in Montana. When he returned from India, he served a year as a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellow at the University of Missouri in Columbia, followed by another year at M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston, TX. It was during this time that he decided he wanted to be more directly involved in patient care, so he enrolled in medical school at the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1973 and received his MD in 1976.

Fortunately for the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology (MIR), Tom selected Washington University for his combined training in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine, which began in 1977. In 1981, he joined the faculty of the MIR Division of Nuclear Medicine,



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rising to the rank of professor of radiology and of biomedical engineering in 1992.

While at MIR, Tom pursued his passions for research, patient care, and teaching. He was an exceptional individual who excelled in all 3 of these areas. He had a very successful academic career that included more than 85 publications and multiple grants. Most recently his research involved the use of PET imaging in patients with cervical or prostate cancer. His expertise in patient care was recognized by his peers. He has been listed in "Best Doctors in America" since 1994.

Over the years, Tom received many honors and awards, including the Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Oration Award, presented by the Indian Society of Nuclear Medicine and both the Presidential Distinguished Educator and the Distinguished Service Awards from the SNM.

Tom's greatest love was teaching. He was the program director of our nuclear medicine residency for many years; one of his favorite responsibilities was to prepare a few comments about each of our residents at the division's annual "graduation" dinner. We were always struck by his kindness and the deep personal connection he made with all of our residents.

You might think that excelling in research, patient care, and teaching was more than enough for one individual, but somehow Tom found time to do many other important jobs, such as being a member and then chair of the Nuclear Medicine Residency Review Committee, a member and chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, and the Scientific Program Chair for the SNM. If there is one complaint that we had about Tom, it is that he made all of the work that he did look so easy. Tom was always calm, collected, efficient, and organized. He had, by far, the cleanest desk in the division.

Tom was also a member and served as a deacon of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood. He was an avid reader of politics and history, a classical music lover, and a traveler, visiting all 50 states and more than 30 countries.

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devastating loss of money for research on diagnosing and treating diseases will be followed by a loss of funds to support the training of students and postdoctoral fellows to fill an expanding role of nuclear medicine in patient care.”

The committee of experts that prepared *Advancing Nuclear Medicine Through Innovation* reinforced these viewpoints with their conclusion:

...while history highlights the payoff and public benefit from government investments in science and technology for nuclear medicine, the competitive edge that the United States has held for the past 50 years is seriously challenged. . . . Thus, although the scientific opportunities have never been greater or more exciting, the infrastructure on which future innovations in nuclear medicine depend hangs in the balance. If the promise of the field is to be fulfilled, a federally supported infrastructure for basic and translational research in nuclear medicine should be considered.

Members of the Committee on the State of the Science of Nuclear Medicine included Hricak, Memo-

rial Sloan–Kettering Cancer Center (New York, NY); S. James Adelstein, MD, PhD, Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA); Conti, University of Southern California (Los Angeles); Joanna Fowler, PhD, Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton, NY); Joe Gray, PhD, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (CA); Lin-Wen Hu, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge); Joel Karp, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia); Thomas Lewellen, PhD, University of Washington (Seattle); Roger Macklis, MD, Cleveland Clinic Foundation (OH); C. Douglas Maynard, MD, Wake Forest University School of Medicine (Winston-Salem, NC); Thomas J. Ruth, PhD, Tri-University Meson Facility (Vancouver, Canada); Heinrich Schelbert, MD, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles; Gustav Von Schulthess, MD, PhD, University Hospital of Zurich (Switzerland); Michael R. Zalutsky, PhD, Duke University (Durham, NC); and Naoko Ishibe, study director, NRC (Washington, DC).

Advancing Nuclear Medicine Through Innovation may be ordered, downloaded, or read online at the National Academies Press Web site, www.nap.edu>New Releases. ✧

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Tom has been an inspiration to others. He inspired his entire family to pursue advanced degrees. Karen Sue has a PhD in psychology; his daughter, Michelle, has her MD; and his son, Daniel, is pursuing a PhD in economics. No one would be surprised that Michelle has chosen a career in radiology and is now doing a neuroradiology fellowship at MIR. Tom was understandably proud of his family and frequently commented on how fortunate he was to spend so much time with them during the last year of his life.

In the Division of Nuclear Medicine, Tom was an inspiration to all of us—physicians, technologists, sci-

entists, and administrative staff—with his determined and optimistic approach to his serious illness. Few of us could handle similar adversity with Tom’s grace and equanimity. We will all miss Tom’s cheerful, optimistic, upbeat attitude toward life, a quality that he maintained until the very end. Tom will be remembered by his family, colleagues, and friends as a gentle, kind, and caring man. Our sincere condolences go out to Tom’s wife, daughter, and son.

Henry D. Royal, MD

Barry A. Siegel, MD

Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology

Saint Louis, MO

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event based on topic areas and proximity and will arrange logistic details, payment, and honoraria.

We invite you to submit your name and area(s) of expertise to Zachary Hochstetler at molecularimaging@snm.org. An online speaker application form is available at www.molecularimagingcenter.org.

Funding is Available

Although the speaker database is currently being expanded, we are now accepting speaker proposals. Inside MI

will cover both travel expenses and honoraria for speakers. During this first year of operations, a limited budget will be available; therefore, we encourage you to apply early. Proposals will be evaluated based on topics proposed by the speakers and areas of interest expressed by requesters and defined by the MICoE Education Task Force. These criteria and the application form will continue to evolve. Speaker request forms are also available at www.molecularimagingcenter.org.

Marybeth Howlett, MEM

Director, MICoE, SNM