

Howard J. Dworkin, MD, 1932–2012

Howard J. Dworkin, MD, a leader in nuclear medicine education and a past president of SNM, died on January 27 in Royal Oak, MI. He was an internationally recognized authority on quality and planning issues associated with the continuing medical education (CME) process.

Dworkin was born in Brooklyn, NY. He received an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA) in 1955 and his medical degree from Albany Medical College (NY) in 1959. During his internship at Albany Hospital (1959–1960) and residency at Rochester General Hospital (NY; 1960–1962), he trained in internal medicine. It was during his time at Rochester that he saw a notice on a bulletin board about a research fellowship at the University of Michigan (UM). At Michigan, William Beierwaltes, MD, was heading up an active group of nuclear medicine physicians and had coauthored the first textbook of nuclear medicine practice. Dworkin went to UM in 1962 and, although his teaching associate and third-year residency positions were nominally in internal medicine, he pursued his interests in nuclear medicine. From 1963 to 1965 he held a fellowship in cancer research at the UM Medical Center, earning a master's degree in radiation biology during the same period. He also served as the assistant coordinator of the nuclear medicine unit (1963–1966) and an instructor in the Department of Medicine (1965–1966). During this period, he published a number of papers with Beierwaltes and other UM researchers.

After a year in Toronto, Canada, as head of nuclear medicine and associate professor at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Dworkin was drafted in 1967 during the Vietnam War. As a naval commander, he served as head of nuclear medicine in the Department of Radiology at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, from 1967 to 1969. He participated in a new program designed to train technologists in working with isotopes in diagnosis and therapy. The program would evolve into the Nuclear Medicine Technologist Training Program at Portsmouth,



Howard J. Dworkin, MD

VA, and would spur the establishment of a number of other military educational efforts in nuclear medicine.

After leaving the military, Dworkin went to the William Beaumont Hospital, where he chaired the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Royal Oak, MI, facility from 1969 to 2002 and at the Troy, MI, location from 1981 to 2001. His interest in educational efforts continued. With colleagues, he started the hospital's school of nuclear medicine technology in 1970 and served as its director. He also served as director of the hospital's nuclear medicine resident training program for more than 30 y. Dworkin held appointments as an adjunct professor at UM and

as a clinical professor at Wayne State University Medical School (Detroit, MI), Michigan State University (East Lansing), and Oakland University (Rochester, MI). He published or presented numerous papers, lectures, posters, and invited talks on a wide range of nuclear medicine practice and clinical experience.

In addition to his presidency of SNM (1986–1987), Dworkin served as president of the American College of Nuclear Physicians (1978 and 1979), as chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) Committee on Certifying Examinations (1983), as ABNM representative to the American Board of Medical Specialties Committee on Study of Evaluation Procedures (1983), and in a number of committee and council positions with the SNM. He was active in the Education and Research Foundation of SNM and served as the society's representative to the American Medical Association Section Council on Nuclear Medicine. He was also appointed to the Council of Medical Specialty Societies and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) during years in which plans for today's enhanced continuing medical education requirements were being made. He was the 1998 chair of ACCME. He was a member of the board of directors of the Alliance for Continuing Medical Education and chaired the Michigan State Medical Society's Committee on CME Accreditation.