

David A. Weber, PhD 1939–2016

David A. Weber, PhD, a nuclear medicine physicist and academic who was chair of the SNM Medical Internal Radiation Dose (MIRD) Committee from 1988 to 1994, died at his home in Pittsford, NY, on March 31. His field of specialization was nuclear medicine imaging and technology, particularly SPECT and bone imaging, and he was a national and international leader in radiation dose measurement efforts. He was born in Lockport, NY, and earned his undergraduate degree in physics from St. Lawrence University (Canton, NY). He started his medical physics training as a fellow in biophysics at the Roswell Park Memorial Institute (Buffalo, NY) and continued as an assistant physicist and later laboratory chief of the Radioactive Isotopes Section at Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Disease (New York, NY). He continued his graduate physics training as an Atomic Energy Agency Graduate Laboratory Fellow at the University of Rochester (NY) under Howard Andrews, PhD, receiving his doctorate in radiation biology and biophysics in 1971 from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry (NY).

After graduation he stayed at the University of Rochester as an assistant professor of radiology, served as acting chief of the Division of Nuclear Medicine (1974–1975), and rose through the academic ranks to become an associate professor in the departments of Radiation Biology & Biophysics and of Radiology. In 1978, he was awarded a 1-year Fogarty Senior International Fellowship to study postfracture bone repair in elderly patients at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Lund University Hospital (Sweden). This began a long and productive collaboration with the research group from Lund.

From 1987 to 1994, Dr. Weber was a senior scientist, head of the Nuclear Medicine Research Group, and group leader of medical applications of nuclear technology at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (Upton, NY). During this period he held a joint appointment as a professor of radiology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine.

In 1994, he became a professor and vice chair of radiology research in the Department of Radiology at the University of California Davis Medical Center (Sacramento). In 2000 he accepted an offer to work with the research leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as deputy chief officer, acting chief officer, and chief officer of the VA Office of Research Oversight (Washington, DC). At his retirement in 2006, he was recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the Exemplary Service Award for Distinguished Service to the Veterans Health Administration and to Our Nation's Veterans and Their Families.



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Dr. Weber was an active member and contributor to SNM. He was active on the MIRD Committee from 1976 to 1998, first as a member, then as chair, and later as an ex officio participant. Under his leadership as MIRD chair, a number of seminal publications on absorbed dose and radionuclide measurement were released, including the *MIRD Primer for Absorbed Dose Calculations* (1988), *MIRD: Radionuclide Data and Decay Schemes* (1989), MIRD Dose Estimate Report 13 on radiation absorbed dose from ^{99m}Tc -labeled bone imaging agents (*J Nucl Med.* 1989;30:1117–1122), MIRD Dose Estimate Report No. 16 on radiation absorbed dose from ^{99m}Tc -diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid aerosol (*J Nucl Med.* 1992;33:1717–1719), *MIRD Head and Brain Dosimetry* (1999), and MIRD Pamphlet No. 15 on radionuclide S values in a revised dosimetric model of the adult head and brain (*J Nucl Med.* 1999;40:62S–101S). Dr. Weber was the author of more than 100 other peer-reviewed publications. He also served the SNM as president of the Computer Council (1977–1978) and of the Instrumentation Council (1986–1987), as a member of the Board of Trustees (1983–1987), member of the Publications Committee (1986–2010), and in numerous positions on the SNM Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee (1976–1993).

He was an elected member of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements and a fellow of the American College of Nuclear Physicians. He was a longtime advisor and technical expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency and served in South Korea as a Technical Assistance Expert for Quality Control in 1985 and in 1988. He was also an active member of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine and served as an associate editor of *Medical Physics* (1979–1982, 1988–1996).

Dr. Weber was an excellent physicist, teacher, and mentor. He had a tremendous impact on the lives and careers of his many graduate students and fellows. He taught us how to be persistent and to keep trying even when it seemed impossibly hard. He focused on honesty and integrity in all that he did. His colleagues will always remember him as a great and generous person. He loved science and, after his retirement, stayed active in the field, serving as a journal reviewer and continuing to attend SNMMI and Radiological Society of North America meetings.

Dr. Weber is survived by his wife, Sandra, 2 children, and 6 grandchildren. A memorial service was held on May 7.

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