

Memorial Fund and Annual Award Established

IN MEMORIAM: GERALD J. HINE, PHD, 1916-1987

Gerald J. Hine, PhD, retired Chief, Research in Nuclear Medicine at the Veterans Administration (VA) Central Office in Washington, DC, and consultant in nuclear medicine instrumentation, died in Boulder, Colorado on November 28, 1987.

Born in Leipzig, East Germany in 1916, Dr. Hine studied physics at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland. In 1946 he immigrated to the United States (US), becoming a citizen in 1952.

In 1946, Dr. Hine joined the Sloan-Kettering Institute, where he worked under L.D. Marinelli until 1949 on medical applications of radioisotopes. It was there that he started working in radiation dosimetry, leading to co-editorship of the pioneering text, *Radiation Dosimetry* (1956).

From 1949 to 1952, as a special National Institutes of Health (NIH) post-doctorate fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he did research under J.C. Trump and R.D. Evans concerning fundamental problems

in radiation detection.

During the next 12 years he worked at the VA Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts as Senior Physicist and, at the same time, as consultant to the Hospital for Joint Diseases in New York. During those very productive years, he continually worked on the development of new instrumentation related to the application of radioisotopes in medicine. His work led to the publication of his second important text as editor, *Instrumentation in Nuclear Medicine* (1967).

From 1964 to 1969, he served in the nuclear medicine section of the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. In addition to organizing symposia and giving lectures, Dr. Hine worked on the performance of focused collimators for radionuclide scanning. He then went to the VA Central Office where he was Chief, Research in Nuclear Medicine until his retirement from the government in 1976. After his retirement, Dr. Hine mov-

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FROM THE EDITORS

A recent article, "NRC Removes Nuclear Physicians from Hospital Licenses for Falsifying Records" (see *Newsline*, Nov. 1987, pp.1653-1655), described improper actions reported by the United States (US) Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the *Federal Register*. Several readers have suggested that *Newsline*, in its reporting of this story, failed to follow proper procedures.

Although the physicians cited by the NRC were unnamed in the *Newsline* article, they were not contacted nor given an opportunity to comment. While *Newsline* has a policy of getting both sides of a story, this procedure was bypassed, perhaps inappropriately in retrospect, because of the relative anonymity of the individuals cited.

The physician who was removed from the medical license at the Hines Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in Illinois has released the following statement:

- There was no valid basis for the NRC's conclusions.
- Although the NRC published "an order to show cause why the medical license should not be modified to remove" the physician from the license for life, the physician was removed immediately without any notification or apparent due process.

- Since the case is under active appeal, it was inappropriate for the NRC to try it in the press or for the NRC to publicly discuss the matter at the time.

- A detailed version of the events will be made public after the appeal process is completed.

Consistent with its mission to inform journal readers about government regulations that affect nuclear medicine practice and research, *Newsline* reported the unusually strong actions taken by the NRC to convey the "renewed and heightened interest" that this agency is showing in radiation safety practices and misadministrations. The names of the physicians involved in the misadministrations were not included in the *Newsline* article specifically to avoid sensationalizing the story and exploiting the physicians. Through the story, *Newsline* attempted to indicate the actions of the NRC, and to emphasize the events that occurred, rather than pass judgment on the merits of the citations. We believe this to be a valuable function of *Newsline*. We will endeavor to continue this function with a greater sensitivity to presenting all points of view. ■

NEWS BRIEFS

ABNM Offers Diplomates Nuclear Medicine Recertification Examination in 1988

In response to a bill proposing a requirement that physicians in the United States (US) must demonstrate evidence of continued competency in order to receive reimbursement for services rendered to Medicare and Medicaid patients, the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, Inc. (ABNM) will offer a recertification examination for nuclear medicine physicians. The objective type examination will be given on September 10, 1988 at three sites in the US: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; St. Louis, Missouri; and Stanford, California.

The bill, which proposes that recertification by an accredited specialty board will be accepted as evidence of continued competency, was introduced into the US House of Representatives and is currently awaiting consideration.

The ABNM offers the voluntary recertification examination as a service to its diplomates, and application forms may be obtained from the ABNM office. The fee for the examination is \$500, and recertification will be valid for a period of 10 years. Diplomates currently holding an ABNM certificate are not required to become recertified, the ABNM said, but may want to take the examination to provide evidence of continued competency.

[For more information, contact: The American Board of Nuclear Medicine, Inc., 900 Veteran Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024 (213) 825-6787.] ■

FDA Puts Drugs and Biologics in Separate Centers

The United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has divided the Center for Drugs and Biologics into two separate centers. In a

Federal Register notice (October 15, 1987, p. 38275), the FDA explained that the "crises and public pressures" generated by the new drug review process and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) make them unmanageable by one center within the organization.

The Center for Drug Evaluation and Research will focus on the new-drug review process. The Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research will concentrate on the development of AIDS vaccines and diagnostic tests, and coordinate all other AIDS activities.

Carl C. Peck, MD, was named director of the agency's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, and will be responsible for research, drug standards, and post-marketing surveillance, in addition to new-drug review and compliance. Paul D. Parkman, MD, who served as acting director of the Center for Drugs and Biologics since 1986, was appointed director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and coordinator of the agency's AIDS program. ■

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ed to Boulder and continued his active involvement as consultant in nuclear medicine instrumentation.

A fighter for technological progress, Dr. Hine never really retired. He worked as a consultant for the Bureau of Radiological Health, and he participated in the research of gamma camera performance. It was during these later years that I became better acquainted with the man whom I had admired since my student years. I was privileged to work with Jerry on various committees and profited greatly from his selflessness and vast experience. He set high quality standards and demanded the same from his collaborators. Jerry was an untiring, methodical, and dynamic person with a passion for science. His guidance and influence will sorely be missed.

Dr. Hine is survived by his wife Giulia; two sons, Peter

and Harvey; a daughter, Madeline Raetz; a brother, Mark; and six grandchildren.

Jerry's friends and The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM), through the Education and Research (E&R) Foundation, have established a memorial fund to serve as a lasting testimonial of our love and respect for this unique man. This fund will provide for an annual award to a young investigator in the area of physical science in nuclear medicine. Contributions designated for the Gerald J. Hine Memorial Award now being accepted and may be sent to: The Education and Research Foundation, The Society of Nuclear Medicine, 136 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

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