

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. ■