Thomas P. Haynie, MD, Honored as Distinguished Educator

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The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) presented its Distinguished Educator Award to Thomas P. Haynie, MD, at a ceremony during its Annual Meeting in Washington, DC in June. Dr. Haynie was honored for his efforts over the past three decades to share his knowledge of nuclear medicine with students, colleagues, and readers of The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, which he edited from 1985 through 1989.

Dr. Haynie, James E. Anderson Professor of Nuclear Medicine, and chairman of the department of nuclear medicine, division of diagnostic imaging at the University of Texas (UT) M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, who was the fourth recipient of the Award, will join the ranks of the noteworthy educators, Marshall Brucker, MD, C. Craig Harris, MS, and William G. Myers, PhD, MD.

William J. MacIntyre, PhD, chairman of the SNM Awards Committee, notes that the Distinguished Educator Award is "only given when the Awards Committee unanimously agrees on a nominee who has been brought up by one of its members."

Dr. MacIntyre, an SNM past president, staff physicist in the nuclear medicine department of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Ohio says, "The Society of Nuclear Medicine has in place many mechanisms to recognize achievement in the basic and clinical sciences, but it is equally important to recognize contributions to the educational aspects of the field. One of the Society's most important educational instruments is The Journal of Nuclear Medicine. The Awards Committee wanted to honor Dr. Haynie by naming him as the 1990 recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award for his tireless efforts as editor of the Journal from 1985 through 1989. His efforts over this time have enabled that publication to fulfill its demanding obligations to scholarship and education."

'One of the Best Trainees'

Dr. Haynie received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston in 1956. He then went to the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor to pursue postgraduate training in internal medicine. It was there that he became interested in nuclear medicine, which he studied under William H. Beierwaltes, MD, Professor of Medicine Emeritus at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, consultant to St. John Hospital in Detroit and William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Close to 30 years later, Dr. Beierwaltes still refers to Dr. Haynie as "one of the best trainees I've ever had."

Dr. Haynie stayed in Ann Arbor as an instructor to the assistant professor of internal medicine and assistant coordinator of the nuclear medicine unit at the University of Michigan and as a consultant in internal medicine at the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital until 1962, when he returned to Texas. He initially received an assistant professorship in internal medicine and the directorship of the nuclear medicine service at the UT Medical Branch in Galveston and a consulting position in internal medicine at the Public Health Service Hospital there. It was in 1963 that he first became affiliated with the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center as a consultant in medicine.

After spending the fall of 1964 at the Hospitalier Averroes in Casablanca, Morocco as a technical expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency, in 1965, Dr. Haynie was appointed associate professor of medicine and associate internist at M.D. Anderson. In 1967, he became chief of the section of nuclear medicine there. In 1975, he
was appointed professor of medicine
(nuclear medicine); in 1977, he
became acting head of the department
of internal medicine; in 1979, chairman
of the department of internal medicine;
in 1984, he was appointed to his cur-
rent Chairmanship; and in 1988, he re-
ceived his current Professorship.

He is also professor of medicine and
physiology and a member of the grad-
uate faculty of the UT Graduate School
of Biomedical Sciences at Houston and
professor of internal medicine and
radiology at Hermann Hospital at the
UT Medical School in Houston.

Over the past three decades, Dr.
Haynie has progressed from being a
consultant in medicine to being a phy-
sician who his colleagues call “the
most experienced nuclear oncologist
in the world.”

Colleagues and students alike laud
Dr. Haynie for his methods and style
of teaching and his vast experience and
insight. Edmund E. Kim, MD, pro-
fessor of radiation and internal medi-
cine and director of the metabolic
imaging center at M.D. Anderson,
who has worked with Dr. Haynie over
the past decade, praises Dr. Haynie’s
approach to sharing his knowledge.
“Dr. Haynie always asks others their
opinions. In teaching, he talks to his
students and asks questions, trying to
relate his message with others’
opinions and getting others to think for
themselves. Whenever anyone asks
him a question about nuclear medi-
cine, he always describes a lot
from personal experience. He gives
insight about common sense and
makes others think about things.”

Similarly, Donald A. Podoloff, MD,
Dr. Haynie’s deputy chairman of nu-
clear medicine, associate professor of
radiology and nuclear medicine at
M.D. Anderson, says, “I use him as
a mentor in many respects. He has
enormous clinical experience, particu-
larly in cancer diagnostic imaging
using nuclear medicine techniques.
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Richard Abello, MD, who recently
completed a two-year nuclear medicine
fellowship under Dr. Haynie at M.D.
Anderson and is completing a radiolo-
gy residency there, says, “It’s always
been a pleasure to work with Dr.
Haynie. He has an incredible amount
of experience. He can always come up
with another differential diagnosis
when reading scans.” Adds Dr. Abello,
“He’s passed on a philosophy to be less
dogmatic when interpreting scans.”

Journal Editorship

In December 1989, Dr. Haynie
completed a five year term as Editor of
The Journal of Nuclear Medicine,
for which he will be long remembered.
Dr. Beierwaltes says, “Dr. Haynie did
a marvelous job with the Journal. I
was very impressed by it. As usual, he
put his whole heart and soul into it.”

Dr. Kim agrees. Noting that Dr.
Haynie received some criticism from
basic scientists for making the content
of the Journal a combination of
clinical and basic research, Dr. Kim
says that Dr. Haynie’s bottom line is
always the patient. “He always says
you have to provide clinical informa-
tion to practitioners, and he empha-
sizes patient care first. He’s a very
good doctor in that regard.”

In addition to editing JNM, Dr.
Haynie often helps his colleagues pre-
pare and edit their abstracts, manu-
scripts, and books. Dr. Podoloff notes,
“because he’s been doing this for so
long... there’s very little he hasn’t seen
before.” Describing an editorial he was
writing at one time, Dr. Podoloff says
that Dr. Haynie uncovered a reference
article “that rounded out my presenta-
tion. He has the ability to see the other
sides of very complex issues. That’s
one of his great strengths.” Noting Dr.
Haynie’s recent presentation on dis-
cordancies between PET scans and
clinical findings at the European
Nuclear Medicine Congress in
Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Dr.
Podoloff adds, “Other people tend to
look at the similarities among methods,
he can look at dissimilarities.”

Dr. Podoloff says that Dr. Haynie is
“committed to resident and intern edu-
cation” and to that end he is developing
a teaching file of unknown cases for
residents preparing for board certifi-
cation. “Dr. Haynie is preparing the in-
dividual cases and putting them to-
gether in a coherent fashion,” a pro-
cess that “takes a couple of hours for
each case, and there are hundreds of
them.” Dr. Podoloff adds, “When he’s
finished, it will be the finest teaching
file in oncologic nuclear medicine.”

A often repeated remark from those
who know Dr. Haynie is that he is a
gentleman and a gentle man. He is
always willing to share his kindness,
his knowledge, and his experiences
with everyone — his colleagues,
technologists, students, and patients.

Sarah M. Tilyou