



Ralph G. Robinson, MD

Ralph G. Robinson, MD died on September 2, 1994. He had served for more than twenty years as director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine and had become chairman of the Department of Radiology at the University of Kansas Medical Center in January of 1993. Born in Tate, GA in 1937 and raised in Humansville, MO, Ralph completed his undergraduate work and received his MD degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1962. He then served in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1965 as a medical officer aboard the nuclear submarine, U.S.S Tecumseh. He returned to the University of Kansas as a resident in internal medicine, followed by a fellowship in cardiovascular nuclear medicine. He was appointed division director in 1969.

Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, he was a past-president of the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) and vice-president of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine Science. In recognition of his many contributions to nuclear medicine as a science and medical specialty, Ralph received a Distinguished Service Award from the Society of Nuclear Medicine in 1994. As ACNP President, he established the Corporate Committee for the Advancement of Nuclear Medicine. He had also served as Chairman of the Radiopharmaceutical Drug and Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration.

In 1977, Ralph received an IND to evaluate strontium-89 as a therapeutic radiopharmaceutical for the palliation of intractable pain from bone metastatic cancer. He brought unusual intensity to this work and continued to promote the advantages of this approach, even after its approval for clinical use in 1993.

Ralph, an avid outdoorsman, was a fisherman of regional renown and frequently won prizes at national fishing tournaments. Known for his thoughtfulness, generosity, conscientiousness and caring, Ralph gave wise counsel to those who sought it up to his very last day.

Although the world of nuclear medicine will be much poorer for Ralph's passing, he leaves behind a legacy of beneficial academic, professional and personal accomplishments. He is survived by his wife, Betty Robinson; a daughter, Dr. Katherine Cameron; a son, Dr. George G. Robinson II; a brother, Dr. James G. Robinson; and a grandson, Sean Robinson.

David Preston, MD

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