Dennis D. Patton, MD SNM Historian

History Corner

SNM Archives

There is now a home for the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) archives: a dedicated, secure, climate-controlled room at SNM headquarters in Reston, VA. All archival material is cataloged in computer files accessible to anyone involved in scholarly historical research. The papers of the late Michel Ter-Pogossian were generously donated to SNM by his widow, Ann. They were accessioned by the SNM historian and a consultant historian, Nan Knight, PhD. The Ter-Pogossian collection occupies 15 numbered and labeled boxes. The next acquisition will be the large collection of papers, books and other materials donated to SNM by Pat Brucer, widow of Marshall Brucer, MD. In addition to the archives room, there will be an open display room near the SNM reception desk that will contain books, journals and rotating exhibits. Anyone wishing to donate materials to the archives should contact Dennis D. Patton, MD, Professor of Radiology and Optical Sciences, Division of Nuclear Medicine, University Medical Center, Tucson, AZ 85724, phone: (520) 626-7709, fax: (520) 694-2412, e-mail: dpatton@radiology.arizona.edu. Contributions may be tax deductible; consult your tax advisor.

Asteroids, Roentgen and Becquerel

As part of the centennial celebration of the discovery of x-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen (1895) and of radioactivity by Henri Becquerel (1896), I, together with two astronomers, Tim B. Hunter, MD, and David H. Levy, PhD, approached the International Astronomical Union (IAU) petitioning IAU to name two asteroids after Roentgen and Becquerel in recognition of their pioneering work a century ago. The IAU agreed. Asteroid 6401 is now officially known as 6401 Roentgen and 6914 as 6914 Becquerel. Levy is codiscoverer of both asteroids, as well as of the Shoemaker-Levy comet that struck Jupiter in July 1994. For telescopic photographs of the asteroids and a discussion of them, see Hunter TB, Patton DD, Levy DH, McGaha JE. 6401 Roentgen and 6914 Becquerel. *Radiology* 1997;202:848. These asteroids, faint telescopic objects located between Mars and Jupiter, were not discovered until 1991 and 1992, respectively.

Historical Acknowledgment

The SNM booklet, *Nuclear Medicine: 100 Years in the Making: 1896–1996*, which was distributed at the 1996 Annual Meeting, stated (page 8) that in 1950 K.R. Crispell and John P. Storassli used ^{131}I-labeled human serum album (HSA) to image the heart blood pool. It used the term "imaging" very loosely to describe localizing a source. Since Benedict Cassen was still developing his rectilinear scanner, no one could have then "imaged" the heart in our current sense. A claim for priority in cardiac imaging using ^{131}I-HSA has been advanced by Abbas M. Rejali, PhD, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, (see Rejali AM, MacIntyre WJ, Friedell JL. A radioisotope method of visualization of blood pools. *AJR* 1958;79:129–137).

The booklet also notes (page 9) that in 1955 George V. Taplin used ^{131}I-rose bengal to image the liver (not stating that he was the first to do so, but the statement implies such). Taplin used an external probe to monitor liver uptake, but made no images (Taplin GV, Meredith OM, Kade H, et al. The radioactive (I^{131}-tagged) rose bengal uptake-excretion test for liver function using external gamma-ray scintillation counting techniques. *J Lab Clin Med* 1955;45:665–678). Again, a credible claim for priority in liver imaging has been advanced by Dr. Rejali (see Friedell HL, MacIntyre WJ, Rejali AM. A method for the visualization of the configuration and structure of the liver. *AJR* 1957;77:455–470).

—Dennis D. Patton, MD, is the SNM historian and professor of radiology and optical sciences at University Medical Center, Tucson, Arizona.