



B. Leonard
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1941-1998

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Bruce Leonard Holman died of metastatic cancer of the esophagus on February 1, 1998. He was 56 years old. Despite certain knowledge of the outcome of his disease, he spent the last year of his life as he had lived, leading the department of radiology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, standing up for radiology and nuclear medicine on the national scene and relaxing with his family and friends.

Holman was born in Sheboygan, WI, in 1941. He attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison and received his medical education at Washington University and the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology in St. Louis, MO. James Potchen, MD, who steered Holman's interest into regional cerebral blood flow, oversaw his training in nuclear medicine.

Holman came to the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, now the Brigham and Women's Hospital, in 1970 for his initial faculty appointment. There he quickly took on responsibility for three major activities: managing the clinical service, designing an educational program in nuclear medicine for radiology residents and developing a research program in cardiac nuclear imaging. The change in his research focus was due to the hospital's strength in clinical cardiology. Holman began a decade-long program concerned with regional myocardial blood flow, acute myocardial infarct radioindicators and quantitative cardiac dynamics. In 1976, he became an established investigator of the American Heart Association.

In the early 1980s, Harvard University was offered the SPECT instrumentation facilities of the Union Carbide Corporation, which was going out of the nuclear medicine business. After a number of critical, strategic conversations with me about the matter, Holman decided the opportunity was too good to pass up, and he committed his research to SPECT development. He saw that SPECT would be particularly useful for studying the brain and worked to perfect the instrumentation, first with the Union Carbide machine and later with a design conceived by Barney Genna, PhD. Holman's subsequent clinical studies, many with Keith Johnson, MD, earned him a worldwide reputation in the fields of stroke, degenerative brain disease and cocaine addiction. His short film *Cocaine and the Brain* was widely distributed to middle schools and earned him several prizes.

Holman was named a professor of radiology at Harvard in 1982 and became chair of radiology at the Brigham and Harvard department in 1986 and Philip H. Cook Professor in 1988. As head of the department, he helped it pioneer image-guided surgical therapy and use of the Internet for radiologic education. The open magnet developed by his colleague, Ferenc Jolesz, MD, and the award-winning home page BrighamRad best exemplify the accomplishments of the department under his direction. During Holman's tenure, the research activities of the department expanded, as did the clinical services provided by

the hospital through community outreach and telemedicine. Holman prepared himself for the managed care era by taking courses, attending seminars, reading and reorganizing the department with Steve Seltzer, MD, who succeeded him as chair, to meet its challenges.

Additionally, Holman played a major role in the affairs of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. He occupied many roles, including that of president (1987-1988). He was an active member of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, serving as its vice-chair and chair of the residency review committee for nuclear medicine. Holman was a trustee of the American Board of Radiology at the time of his death. He was a fellow of the American College of Radiology, the American College of Nuclear Physicians, the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Chest Physicians. As a moving force in the Academy of Radiology Research, he led the fight to have the imaging sciences represented more appropriately to federal funding agencies. He believed that embedded as these disciplines are in technology, they need an advocacy separate from those oriented toward disease and organ systems. He took his arguments to Capitol Hill, where, despite his illness, he argued passionately that the radiologic sciences should have their own institute at the National Institutes of Health. Given his circumstances, his desire to use his national and academic standing to further this cause clearly demonstrated his sense of commitment and duty.

Holman was a prodigious writer and lecturer. He was the author of more than 300 original reports and reviews and of 40 book chapters. He edited 7 books and, with Tony Parker, MD, wrote a monograph on computer-assisted nuclear medicine. Between 1975 and 1995, he delivered more than 200 invited and named lectures. He was particularly pleased to have given the keynote lecture at the Society of Nuclear Medicine's 1987 Annual Meeting.

Yet, even with all these accomplishments and such recognition, Holman remained scholarly, generous, thoughtful and unassuming. He was a beloved and admired department head who gently promoted the careers of his junior associates. He was open and friendly, only impatient with those he thought deceitful or opportunistic. He was a consummate photographer and an early advocate of digital processing. He adorned our world with his remarkable eye and showed us new ways of viewing things. His family was dear to him, and, despite the outside demands on his time, he was in their company as often as he could be. His wife, Dale, was a pillar of support, and his daughters, Amy and Allison, were sources of great joy. His life and career were closed too early, but we shall not forget the exemplary character he brought to the good works he performed on behalf of us all.

—S. James Adelstein
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts