



Millard N. Croll, MD, 1923–2005

Millard N. Croll, MD, who served for decades as professor of radiology and the director of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, died on August 5 of pancreatic cancer at Bryn Mawr Hospital near his home in Upper Merion Township, PA. He was a fine educator and clinician, who served the SNM in the following capacities: an active member of the Greater New York Chapter; SNM treasurer, 1963–1968; SNM vice-president, 1969–1970; chair of the Technical Exhibits Committee, 1979–1990, and the Commercial Affairs Committee, 1979–1998; and the Society's historian, 1987–1996.

Millard was born in Philadelphia. His family then moved to St. Davids, where he attended nearby Radnor High School. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1943 and subsequently entered the U.S. Army. After his discharge, he attended Jefferson Medical College (Philadelphia), graduating in 1948. After a residency at the Albert Einstein Medical Center (Philadelphia) and a fellowship at the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, he joined the radiology department at Hahnemann Medical College in 1956. After almost 30 years of distinguished service, he retired in 1987 from academia and began a second career as medical director at Squibb Diagnostics, which subsequently became Bristol-Myers Squibb. He retired from the company in 1992 to spend more time with his family and to pursue consulting work and his many hobbies, which included traveling, professional video making, and competitive automatic pistol shooting.

His choice of radiology and nuclear medicine reflected a lifelong interest in film and images that began at the age of 12, when his father built him a darkroom for photographic work. Millard's veneration for the history of imaging was clear in his work as SNM historian. In this capacity he was instrumental in identifying and preserving books, images, advertising materials, and records from the earliest days of nuclear medicine. These documents now form the core of the archival materials housed at the SNM headquarters in Reston, VA. Most recently, he collaborated on another book, to be entitled *Mileposts in Nuclear Medicine History*.

I first met Dr. Millard Croll while participating in a Cancer Society research project before my freshman year at Hahnemann Medical College in 1967. His flair for nuclear

medicine, his charm, and his fun-loving and carefree style of teaching helped me change my future specialty from dermatology to nuclear medicine. When he started the nuclear medicine residency at Hahnemann, I became the first resident. He taught nuclear medicine in a very practical way: if you find equipment malfunctioning, make sure the scanner or camera is plugged in and there are no blown fuses before calling the service personnel. Demand high quality of yourself and your staff, but always be kind and understanding of your employees, treating them as equal associates. Have a department with high morale, for this helps to maintain a stable and productive department, enabling high-quality medical care. Although his bright blue eyes and constant motion and curiosity will no longer be with us, his legacy in papers and books and in the many residents he trained will continue.

Millard was the editor of 4 influential texts in nuclear medicine: *Recent Advances in Nuclear Medicine* (1966), *Clinical Dynamic Function Studies with Radionuclides* (1972), *New Techniques in Tumor Localization and Radioimmunoassay* (1974), and *Nuclear Ophthalmology* (1976), all published during a period when nuclear medicine applications were rapidly expanding. His long publication history began almost as soon as he graduated from medical school, with articles that focused on ophthalmology (Hole in the macula. *Am J Ophthalmol.* 1950;33:248; Epidemic keratoconjunctivitis. *Grace Hosp Bul.* 1950;28:55–60; and Corneal transplantation. *J Mich State Med Soc.* 1950;49: 442–449.) His first nuclear medicine research was published in the 1960s, with topics ranging from hypothyroidism, fat tolerance, and splenic mapping to work with ^{47}Ca , ^{203}Hg , ^{65}Zn , $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$, ^{67}Ga , and numerous other radionuclides.

Dr. Croll is survived by his wife, Diane; a son, Dennis; a daughter, Judith Pachella; and 5 loving grandchildren.



Millard N. Croll, MD

Harry J. Lessig, MD

President

American College of Nuclear Medicine