



## C. Craig Harris

**C**. Craig Harris passed away on Monday, August 6, 2007, leaving behind a wonderful life as a husband, father, educator, and scientist. He was born on February 20, 1925, in Raymond, MS, and was proud of that heritage. After receiving his BS and MS degrees from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, he worked as a development engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (TN) from 1950 to 1967. Many of the early scientists and clinicians in nuclear medicine worked in Oak Ridge during that time, and Craig became great friends with many of his colleagues who either stayed there or moved on to other institutions. He joined the faculty of Duke University Medical Center (DUMC; Durham, NC) in 1967 and rose through the academic ranks, retiring as an associate professor of radiology in 1992.

Craig's scientific career evolved with the field of nuclear medicine. His early work with rectilinear scanners taught us the correct collimators and techniques for imaging patients with those devices. He also did some of the early work in gamma camera collimator design. I first met Craig Harris in 1973 during my fellowship in nuclear medicine at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology (St. Louis, MO), when he was a visiting lecturer there. The topic of his presentation was "Care and Feeding of Gamma Cameras." When I was recruited for the position of director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at DUMC, having Craig Harris in the division made the position even more attractive. In the early 1980s, Craig led our development of a clinical PET center. At that time, PET scanners came without software, and cyclotrons needed to be finished after they were installed. Craig worked very hard and diligently to make sure that we could produce the necessary radionuclides and be prepared to do the imaging studies that we were to perform. Always a team player, Craig was very supportive of other research activities ongoing in the department, including those of Ronald J. Jaszczak, PhD, who came to DUMC to develop a research program in SPECT imaging. Craig had a profound impact on many colleagues and



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trainees at Duke because of his keen insights and his warm, engaging manner.

Craig was known nationally and internationally as an educator and leader in nuclear medicine. He served as president of SNM from 1968 to 1969. He was a charter member of the American Board of Science in Nuclear Medicine in 1976 and was designated an Honorary Diplomate of the Board in 1984. In 1985, the Awards Committee of the SNM named him the year's Distinguish Educator. The award recognized his contributions as an educator in all aspects of nuclear medicine

and particularly noted his role in organizing and establishing control in the education process of nuclear medicine technologists.

In 1993, I had the privilege of presenting Craig with the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award at the SNM Annual Meeting. He had presented this distinguished award in 1980 to Merrill Bender, MD, and Monty Blau, PhD, both of whom were his long-term friends.

During World War II, Craig served as a B-17 "Flying Fortress" copilot in the 457th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, stationed at Glatton, England. He had many interesting stories to tell about his participation in the war. After retiring from DUMC, he became active in the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, GA.

Craig's loving and supportive wife of 53 years, Bobbi Lee Russell Harris, predeceased him. He is survived by 3 children, Rebecca Harris Moore, David Russell Harris, and Donald Ernest Harris; a brother, Bruce Kelly Harris; and 3 grandchildren.

Craig Harris was proud to have been a scientist and educator who made many contributions to the field of nuclear medicine. His dedication, productivity, and collegiality have affected the lives of many physicians, scientists, and technologists.

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