

# Wagner Highlights Tradition Ends

*From the Newsline editor: On October 26, Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, forwarded the following letter to Heinrich Schelbert, MD, PhD, editor in chief of The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM). It appears in its entirety in Newsline, where excerpts from Wagner's internationally acclaimed Highlights lectures appeared in various formats for more than 3 decades. Since 2000, we have been honored each year to work with Dr. Wagner in publishing in Newsline the complete Highlights lecture, including the majority of images presented.*

## THANKS TO ALL!

On October 20, I met 10 young, bright Japanese nuclear medicine physicians, with their distinguished leader, Jin-ichi Sasanuma, MD, from the Southern Tohoko Hospital in Fukushima, Japan, at the outpatient entrance to Johns Hopkins Hospital and accompanied them on a tour of the in- and outpatient nuclear medicine department. We then presented a program in which senior Johns Hopkins scientists presented their research in radiation oncology and radiopharmaceutical design and development. The next day, with my wife, Anne, I watched the sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean and the brilliant sky at sunset. We decided

then that the time had come to say goodbye to my annual Highlights talks at the end of each meeting of the SNM. The 33rd consecutive talk, delivered in Toronto, was my last.

I want to thank all who attended the talks over all these years, those who sent me slides and discussed their work with me, Judy Buchanan who did the statistical analysis of the submitted material, and Nancy Knight, PhD, who edited the written version of my talks for subsequent publication in the Newsline section of *JNM*.

Thanks to all of you. Keep up your revolutionary work that is transforming the practice of medicine, including the design and development of new drugs and the increasingly rational approach to surgical treatment. All the best.

*Henry*

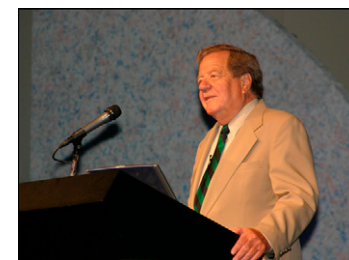


**Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, and wife, Anne**

## Heartfelt Gratitude—and a Challenge for All

Dr. Wagner's announcement that the 2009 Highlights lecture was his last presents an opportunity for us as a profession and as a society to extend our thanks to him—as well as a challenge for us to continue the high standards he set in this much anticipated yearly tradition in our field. As evident in his excellent memoir, *A Personal History of Nuclear Medicine*, his professional life has paralleled that of the development of radionuclide imaging and therapy. He was a first-hand witness (and often frontline participant and leader) to many of the groundbreaking innovations that paved the way for the transition to today's multifaceted molecular medicine. His broad understanding and panoramic view of the field—as well as his many international friendships across geographic and disciplinary boundaries—made him uniquely qualified to present the Highlights lectures summing up the most remarkable and representative achievements from each SNM Annual Meeting. He brought to this task—which required months of preparation and an encyclopedic knowledge of new techniques and tracers—a boundless enthusiasm and genuine generosity of spirit. He was always quick to spotlight young and promising investigators from around the world. The press queued up each year to learn which study Henry had selected for the “SNM Image of the Year,” and the resulting popular and scientific coverage reached millions of individuals.

It is unlikely, in our rapidly diversifying field, that one individual can duplicate Henry's success in providing this yearly overview. This 33-year contribution is truly extraordinary and unmatched in this field or any other medical discipline. His ability to take the long view, to embrace beneficial change, and to provide useful observations about the direction of that change set standards that we are all challenged to emulate in the future.



*Michael M. Graham, MD, PhD  
President, SNM*