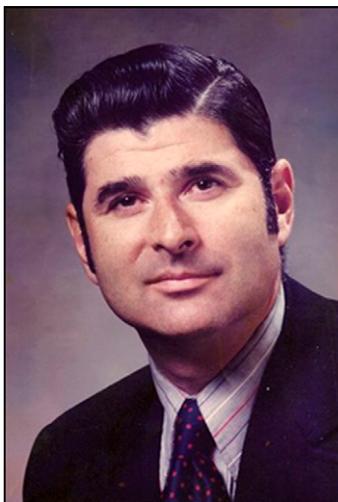


## IN MEMORIAM

## Alexander Gottschalk, MD

Alexander Gottschalk, MD, died peacefully on October 5 at the age of 78, after a 5-y battle with prostate cancer. Alex was born in Chicago, IL, in 1932 to illustrious parent educators. Both were professors at the University of Chicago: Louis was a historian and president of the American Historical Society, who specialized in the French Revolution, and Fruma Kasden Gottschalk, a Russian immigrant, was professor of Slovak languages and literature. Alex received his magna cum laude baccalaureate degree from Harvard in 1954 and his medical degree in 1958 from Washington University of St. Louis, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. He returned to Chicago for an internship at the University of Illinois and a radiology residency at the University of Chicago, which he completed in 1962.



During his residency, Alex became fascinated with and developed his lifelong interest in the fledgling field of nuclear medicine. To pursue this exciting new interest, he accepted a 2-y research associate position at the Donner Research Laboratory in Berkeley, CA, where he worked closely with Hal Anger, the developer of the scintillation camera that bears his name and remains the primary imaging instrument in today's clinical nuclear medicine practice. Lending his clinical expertise and ingenuity to Anger, the pair produced seminal images of the heart, kidneys, and brain.

Alex returned in 1964 to Chicago, where he continued his work and became chief of the University of Chicago's section of nuclear medicine. In 1967, he became director of the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital (later known as the Franklin McLean Institute), where he collaborated with such luminaries as Paul Harper, MD, Katherine Lathrop, and Robert Beck. Among other groundbreaking efforts, the group worked on the development of clinical applications for technetium compounds.

After a brief tenure as radiology department chair at the University of Chicago, Alex moved in 1974 to Yale University (New Haven, CT) as director of the nuclear medicine section. There, working with Barry Zaret, MD, he set up a pioneering cardiovascular nuclear medicine clinical and research service. During his years in Chicago and at Yale, he worked closely with Paul Hoffer, MD, another well-known researcher and clinical practitioner of nuclear medicine. He moved to Michigan State University (East Lansing) in 1990. Alex maintained a career-long interest in nuclear medicine techniques to assess pulmonary embolism and was closely involved in the Prospective Investigation of Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis (PIOPED) studies, serving as chair of the nuclear medicine working group for PIOPED I, II, and III.

The awards Alex received for his brilliant and innovative work were numerous. One of the first (of which he was always

quite proud) was being named in 1967 as one of America's "Ten Outstanding Young Men" by the U.S. Jaycees. He received the gold medals of both the Association of University Radiologists and the Radiological Society of North America. He held board certifications from the American Board of Radiology (in both general radiology and special competence in nuclear radiology) and the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. He served as president of the Association of University Radiologists (1969–1971), the Society of Nuclear Medicine (1974–1975), and the Fleischner Society (1989–1990).

He authored or coauthored almost 400 publications, including highly influential peer-reviewed scientific articles and book chapters. He served as editor-in-chief of the *Yearbook of Nuclear Medicine* from 1995 to 2003 and

coeditor of the classic text, *Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine*, in 1976. His first publication was in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* in 1963 (coauthored with Anger: Localization of brain tumors with the positron scintillation camera. *J Nucl Med.* 1963;4:326–330). In recent years he collaborated with a number of distinguished colleagues in these pages.

His academic and scientific achievements were extraordinary, and his personal characteristics were even more impressive. He always preferred being called "Alex" rather than "Dr. Gottschalk." This extended not only to his residents but to all the technologists, secretaries, and custodial help in his several departments. His 50-y marriage to his beloved Jane (who chose the early photo of Alex included here) produced 3 children: Rand Gottschalk (Okeanos, MD), Karen Bakos (New York, NY), and Amy Gottschalk (Princeton, NJ); and 5 grandsons, to whom he was endearingly known as "Poppy Alex."

Alex continued to work throughout his battle with prostate cancer, and he kept his sense of humor. About 2 y prior to his demise, while on a research telephone call, he said: "Hurry up and get the data. I might not be here next year." Near his death, while in an assisted care facility, he asked what was being served for dinner. When told that it was cottage cheese and mashed potatoes, he remarked that "at least they can't ruin the cottage cheese."

Alex Gottschalk was one of our great nuclear medicine pioneers. Many of his contributions have evolved into elements of routine everyday practice in nuclear medicine. He will be missed by many.

Leonard M. Freeman, MD

Paul D. Stein, MD

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