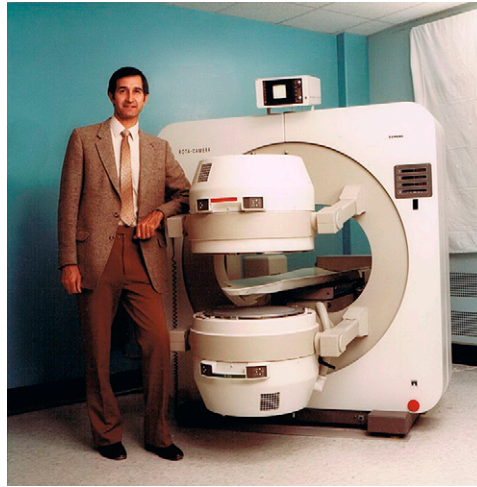


L. Stephen Graham, PhD 1933–2010

L. Stephen Graham, PhD, a renowned nuclear medical physicist, passed away on May 22 in Los Angeles, CA. Steve (as he was called by his colleagues) was an expert in nuclear medicine instrumentation and played a pivotal role in the development of quality control procedures to ensure the appropriate operation of γ camera and SPECT systems. He developed practical approaches to acceptance testing of these systems that formed the basis for the ways in which these tests are still performed today.

Steve was born in Frankfort, IN, in 1933. His family moved to California when he was 12 y old. He received a bachelor's degree in physics from Pasadena College in 1955, a bachelor's degree in divinity from Talbot Seminary in 1959, and a master's degree in physical science from California State University in Long Beach in 1962. He was later drawn to medical physics and received his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in medical physics in 1971. He remained at UCLA as an adjunct professor in the Department of Radiological Sciences until the time of his retirement. He worked at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Sepulveda, CA, from 1977 until the time of the Northridge earthquake in 1994, when the nuclear medicine clinic where he worked was devastated. He moved to the VA Medical Center in west Los Angeles until he retired. He was quite active on a number of committees and task groups for SNM, the American College of Radiology (ACR), the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He was a fellow of both ACR and AAPM.

In addition, Steve assisted many nuclear medicine clinics, not only in southern California but throughout the western United States and even in Europe, to



L. Stephen Graham with an early dual-head SPECT camera.

establish their own quality control programs. He was thorough and meticulous in his work, and his reports reflected this attention to detail. The quality of his reports was always of the highest order. Even the smallest clinic would get immediate attention from the large manufacturers for any negative finding if the report had Steve's name on it.

Steve also was a renowned and active teacher of medical physics to technologists, medical students, and residents. He trained a number of PhD

candidates and postdoctoral fellows from UCLA as well as postdoctoral fellows sent to him by the IAEA from around the world. He was a caring and patient teacher who would answer any question without judgment. He was a respected and congenial colleague, always willing to share his sage advice on how best to address a sticky issue with some new piece of equipment. He was a loyal and trusted friend. He was a modest man with a friendly smile and a warm twinkle in his eye—a gentle spirit and a Christian gentleman.

He is survived by his wife, Marianne; 2 sons, Michael and Daryl; and 3 grandchildren, Evan, Kelly, and Sydney. Daryl has followed in his father's footsteps and is working with a medical physics consulting firm reviewing quality control programs and performing acceptance testing for a number of nuclear medicine clinics in southern California. Steve is sorely missed by those who knew and worked with him.

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