

## Richard Allen Holmes, MD 1932–2016

**R**ichard Allen Holmes, MD, a past president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM), died on July 25, 2016, in Washington, DC. He was born and grew up in Newark, NJ. He graduated from Lincoln University (PA) in 1954 with a degree in biology and earned his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine (Philadelphia, PA) in 1958. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in metabolism/endocrinology at Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI).

In 1962 Dr. Holmes returned east for a fellowship in nuclear medicine at Johns Hopkins University Hospital (Baltimore, MD), where he worked and published with Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, on cardiac, brain, and thyroid scanning innovations. He returned to Milwaukee, where he served as an assistant professor in the Departments of Medicine and Radiology. He went on to become an associate and then full professor of Medicine and Radiology and director of Nuclear Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin (Milwaukee). He left Milwaukee to serve as a professor of Medicine, Radiology, and Nuclear Engineering at the University of Missouri (Columbia) and as chief of Nuclear Medicine at both the University of Missouri Health Science Center and the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital (both in Columbia). Dr. Holmes left academia to continue research and development at DuPont Merck (Boston, MA) and Mallinckrodt (St. Louis, MO) before retiring and moving to the Washington, DC, area.

A prolific researcher, Dr. Holmes published the results of more than 100 research studies, as well as many editorials and commentaries on the field. His research from the early 1960s to the 1990s reflected the full range of practice in the crucial years in which nuclear medicine expanded from thyroid studies and simple scanning techniques to complex investigations throughout the body using a growing arma-



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mentarium of radiolabeled agents. His interest in evaluation of bone cancer and in efforts at palliation led to seminal clinical work with  $^{153}\text{Sm}$  complexes.

He served as president of SNM in 1989 and 1990. He had earlier (1975–1976) served as president of the Central Chapter of SNM. In an editorial in *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* during his presidency (*J Nucl Med.* 1990;31 [3]:20A), he addressed an issue that remains the focus of interest in the field today—the professional relationship between the fields of nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology and their representative specialty boards: “I would anticipate that as legislation develops that will

impact on the future practice of medicine, new alliances will have to be developed between nuclear medicine and other medical specialties, particularly diagnostic radiology. This should not be done in an adversarial atmosphere but in one of mutual concern and respect. It would certainly appear that nuclear medicine has moved beyond the point of reliance on diagnostic radiology to a position of alliance with this specialty.”

Dr. Holmes viewed practicing medicine as a community service but later noted that the new field had been so challenging that, early in his career, he almost gave up on the specialty. He commented in 1994 that he persisted because he realized “that I could use nuclear medicine in the service of my first love—caring for patients.” In the early 1990s he took a sabbatical to join the faculty at the Charles Drew Memorial Hospital in East Los Angeles (CA) to help rebuild the hospital’s residency program and expand training and professional opportunities for young African American physicians. Throughout his career, he mentored medical students, residents, interns, and other trainees.

Dr. Holmes is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, 2 children, and 5 grandchildren.