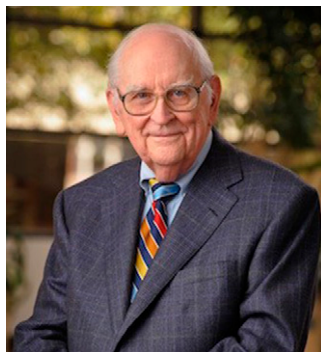


Frederick J. Bonte, MD 1922–2016

Frederick James Bonte, MD, a professor emeritus of radiology at the University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) Medical Center (Dallas) and an innovator in nuclear medicine, died on November 28, 2016. He led the creation of the university's first radiology department, became its first chair, established one of the first academic clinical nuclear medicine laboratories in the United States, and served as dean of the UT Southwestern Medical School.



“Dr. Bonte was one of the true pioneers in nuclear medicine, helping to establish the American Board of Nuclear Medicine [ABNM] after having made seminal contributions to the field. I was fortunate to be able to chat in depth with Fred about the history of the department on numerous occasions and came to know a brilliant, witty, and compelling ‘father’ of the Department of Radiology, with a lifelong passion for teaching and discovery. Our memories of him will forever be an inspiration,” said Neil M. Rofsky, MD, chair of the Department of Radiology at UTSW.

Frederick Bonte was born in Bethlehem (PA) in 1922 and received his undergraduate degree from Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH) and his medical degree from the Western Reserve University School of Medicine. After enlisting in the U.S. Army during World War II and assignment to radiology training, he trained at the radiology department at Percy Jones Hospital (Battle Creek, MI). As a captain, he was sent to the U.S. Army Air Corps Lowry Field (Denver, CO) as chief of the x-ray service. He returned to Western Reserve in 1948 on a fellowship program with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Atomic Energy Research Project. At Western Reserve he rose through residency to become a faculty member and chief of radiation therapy and nuclear medicine.

In 1956, Dr. Bonte was recruited to serve as the first chair of the newly formed radiology department at UTSW, as well as chief of radiology at Children’s Medical Center (Dallas), the Veteran’s Administration Hospital of Dallas, and Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. In 1973 he began 7 years of service as dean of the UTSW Medical School, returning to the clinic and laboratory as a professor in 1980. He served as director of

the UTSW Nuclear Medicine Center until retiring in 2012 (at the age of 90).

With more than 200 peer-reviewed publications from 1950 to 2013, Dr. Bonte’s work covered a broad spectrum of techniques and innovations in nuclear medicine. In the 1970s, along with Robert Parkey, MD, he began the development of clinical applications of ^{99m}Tc -stannous pyrophosphate scintigraphy in acute myocardial infarction. His work with SPECT explored characteristic cerebral blood flow

in Alzheimer disease and enhanced understanding of the origins of neurologic findings in veterans returning from the Gulf War. He helped establish the ABNM and served as its president from 1977 to 1980. He was a trustee of the American Board of Radiology (ABR) from 1969 to 1975. He served as president of the Southwestern Chapter of SNM, the Texas Radiological Society, and the Dallas County Medical Society. He was a member of the Texas Medical Association House of Delegates for 23 years and was the longstanding SNM delegate to the American Medical Association (AMA), as well as a life member of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. He was chair of the AMA Section on Nuclear Medicine from 1985 to 1987 and again from 1989 to 1991. He was recognized with numerous awards, including the Georg Charles De Hevesy Nuclear Medicine Pioneer Award from the SNM (1995), the President’s Medal from the American College of Nuclear Physicians (1997), the ABNM Lifetime Award (2008), and the ABR Lifetime Award (2010).

The library at Parkland Memorial Hospital (Dallas) was named for him in 1976, and in 1994 the Dr. Fred Bonte Professorship in Radiology was endowed at UTSW. In addition to an active life of travel and exploration, he also maintained a private model train room that fascinated generations of children and other visitors. At his retirement in 2013, UTSW officials said in a reception program that they had “basked in his smile, laughed at his clever repartee, and shook our heads at the breadth of knowledge and depth of his inquiring mind.” He is survived by his wife, Cecile, 6 children, and numerous grandchildren.