

Ronald E. Weiner, PhD 1944–2017

Ronald Ellis Weiner, PhD, a researcher in radiopharmaceutical chemistry, died on February 25, 2017. He was born in Utica, NY, in 1944 and received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he went on to receive a doctorate in biophysics. He worked as a postdoctoral associate in 1976 and 1977 in the Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University (New Haven, CT). He then focused his research on radiopharmaceutical chemistry in radiology departments at Yale, the University of Kansas Medical Center (Kansas City), and Indiana University Medical Center (Indianapolis). He spent the next 18 years as a faculty member in the Department of Diagnostic Imaging and Therapeutics at the University of Connecticut Health Center (Farmington), where, as a professor, he taught nuclear medicine and radiology residents, technologists, cardiology fellows, and medical students.

Dr. Weiner performed research on a variety of radiopharmaceuticals and authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and text chapters. Among the foci of his research were the use of ^{67}Ga -citrate in detection of infection and malignancies and the application of radiolabeled antibodies in diagnosis and therapy. Tests in his class were challenging and provided excellent preparation for the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and American Board of Radiology–Diagnostic examinations. He was the principal investigator on 13 radiopharmaceutical studies and coinvestigator on 4 more.

In 2007, Dr. Weiner worked as a clinical staff scientist at the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD), where he oversaw practical operations and procurement of



radiopharmaceuticals and radionuclides. In the same year he moved to Australia to work at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO; Lucas Heights), where he was chair and head of the Radionuclide Development Group. He was a valued ANSTO staff member and contributed to the development of a range of new pharmaceuticals and imaging techniques. He led a team that collaborated with the Australian National University (Canberra), the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (Melbourne), the Schizophrenia Research Institute (Randwick), and the University of Wollongong and internationally with the Institute for Neurodegenerative Disorders (New Haven, CT), Service Hospitalier Frédéric Joliot (Orsay, France), and the University of Tours (France).

After returning to the United States in 2011, he settled in California, where, in retirement, he peer-reviewed submissions for scientific journals and taught chemistry at a community college to students who were on track to become nurses. He was an active member of the SNMMI Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Council. During his career, Dr. Weiner developed a keen sense of the biodistribution and mechanism of localization of each of the radiopharmaceuticals he studied. His insightful and quantitative analytical sense of the ways in which radiopharmaceuticals initially distribute and are redistributed with equilibrium will be missed in the nuclear medicine community and literature.

Dr. Weiner is survived by his wife, Carole, and a daughter, Ilana.

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