

Editorial commentary

Dr. John Gwinn, a former president of The Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR) and Gold Medalist of the SPR in 1989, died recently. He played an enormous role in the development of the SPR, and Dr. Beverly Wood, his successor as Chief of Radiology at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, remembers John in the following obituary.

W. E. Berdon (Managing Editor)

B. Wood

John L. Gwinn, MD



John L. Gwinn, MD died on 9 July 1995 at the age of 73 at his home in Lake San Marcos, California. He was born and grew up in Gallipolis, Ohio, where he attended Gallia Academy High School, then received his AB degree from Denison University in 1944. This was followed by the receipt of an MD degree from the University of Louisville in 1946 and a Master of Science in Pediatrics from the University of Minnesota in 1954. After an internship at Indianapolis General Hospital, he received residency training in pediatrics at the Mayo Clinic and

spent 8 years as a pediatrician before entering a radiology residency at Indiana University. John was certified by both the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Radiology. He served in the US Naval Medical Corps for 32 years, beginning during active duty in the Korean War. He retired as a Captain in 1982.

John was one of the leaders in the establishment of pediatric radiology as a specialty and an early participant in the formation of the Society for Pediatric Radiology. He served as Secretary of the SPR for many years and became President in 1974. After that he remained as an Honorary Counsellor and he received the second Gold Medal of the SPR in 1989. Active in the development of radiology on the West Coast, John founded the Pacific Coast Pediatric Radiology Association and also worked closely with the California Radiological Society, serving as President of that group in 1968. He was active in the Los Angeles Radiological Society, the California Medical Association, the Los Angeles Pediatrics Society, and the Los Angeles Academy of Medicine, and was involved in the American College of Radiology, where he served on the Board of Chancellors, and the American Roentgen Ray Society, serving on the Executive Council, as

first Vice-President, and on the Editorial Policy and Publications Committee.

John Gwinn was Chair of the Department of Radiology at Children's Hospital Los Angeles from 1961 until 1989. Under his leadership the Department of Radiology grew rapidly and provided superb clinical diagnostic radiology and training in pediatric radiology for hundreds of residents and fellows in the subspecialty. He developed the Radiologic Case of the Month section of the *American Journal of Diseases of Children*, serving as Editor of this section for 12 years, working with George Barnes and Fred Lee to develop many of the cases. John was also the author of numerous chapters in books, 47 scientific papers, and edited *Diagnostic Imaging in Pediatric Trauma*, published in 1980.

All of us will remember John fondly for his friendliness, his support, his keen interest and abilities as a teacher, and his excellent qualities as a diagnostic radiologist. John's wife of 49 years, the former Patricia Emerson, died in 1994. He is survived by his children, Barbara Buchanan and Sharon, Steven, and Jeffrey Gwinn, and by four grandchildren. All of us will long remember John Gwinn's tireless efforts on behalf of pediatric radiology.