

Preface

The beautiful tribute to Heidi Patriquin from her colleague and friend Diane Babcock reflects the loss we all feel and the gap Heidi's death leaves in all of our lives. All of her friends around the world (and they are innumerable) share this feeling of loss and yet vividly remember her love of life and her fierce fight for it.

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On November 25, 2000, Pediatric Radiology lost a special friend and colleague, an enthusiastic, dedicated teacher, and a pioneer in Doppler ultrasound.

Heidi Patriquin was born in Germany at the beginning of World War II, survived air raids as a child, and in 1946 after the War immigrated with her family first to Switzerland and then to Canada where she and her family settled in Montreal in 1952. She did her medical training at McGill University; she chose pediatric radiology as her career on the inspiration of her teachers, Scott Dunbar and Bernadette Nogrady, because they “practiced radiology very differently from my other teachers. They saw the children and spoke to the parents (this was at a time when radiology was still a gray specialty in a dark room).” She also made several visits to Dr. Neuhauser's department in Boston and studied ultrasound there with Rita Teele. Subsequently, she studied pediatric ultrasound at Hôpital des Enfants Malades, in Paris.

In 1985, Heidi became interested in Doppler sonography and pioneered its use for studying pediatric diseases. “It seemed almost miraculous to be able to study intra-abdominal hemodynamics with such non-invasive technology.” With this tool, she studied liver disease in children with cystic fibrosis, biliary atresia, tyrosinemia, and North American Indian cirrhosis who were being evaluated for possible liver transplantation. Together with Michel Lafortune, she published the technique and normal blood-flow patterns of the splanchnic and portal circulation. She was interested in renal disease and described alterations of renal blood flow and recovery in the hemolytic uremic syndrome, as well as the rapid recovery following renal vein thrombosis in infants. She applied the finding of pulsus tardus/parvus to the detection of renal artery stenosis in children. She received a research award from the Society of Uroradiolo-

gy for her study of renal artery stenosis in an animal model.

She became interested in the work of Judah Folkman, Peter Burns, and Peter Wells on tumor vascularity and applied it to children with abdominal masses. She published articles about the high velocity abnormal blood flow around the periphery of tumors and its decrease with successful chemotherapy. She also established a technique for detecting intratesticular blood flow in babies and studied the neovascularity of affected bowel loops in children with Crohn's disease. Her work in this area was recently published in *Radiology* (December 2000).

Heidi was fluent in German, English, and French and enjoyed traveling internationally, lecturing on pediatric radiology and Doppler ultrasound. She developed wide-ranging friendships with radiologists and clinicians on five continents. Her CV was impressive with over 130 presentations listed. She authored or co-authored more than 80 articles. Heidi was involved in a number of radiology societies including the SPR and ESPR. She regularly participated in the annual meetings of both organizations, served on the Board of Directors of the SPR, and was an honorary member of the SPR. In 1998, she received the Pioneer Award for her work in ultrasonography. The American Association gave her the President's Award for Women in Radiology, which her daughter, Lara, accepted for her posthumously.

Heidi enjoyed life and was very active in other areas. She loved music and enjoyed playing the viola de gamba with friends and singing in the choir of Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal. She was an athlete who jogged regularly near home in Montreal, with colleagues at radiology meetings, and even ran an occasional marathon. She enjoyed rowing with a group of breast-cancer survivors and participated in several competitions with her dragon boat friends.

She was a lover of family and friends and was very proud of her "best friends," her daughters, Karin, an architect in New York and Lara, a radiology resident in Boston and her son, Martin, a writer in Toronto. She and her "soul-mate," Michel Lafortune, enjoyed collaborating on ultrasound projects together and traveling the world, giving invited lectures in their areas of expertise.

Almost seven years ago, Heidi was diagnosed with breast cancer of an advanced stage. The prognosis was poor, but with her dedication and determination, pursued the latest therapy and was able to survive many years longer than expected. During those years, she enjoyed special trips with her family, saw the birth of a grandson, Lukas, continued caring for patients, and traveled the world lecturing, giving her last presentation just 10 days before her final illness.

In a letter intended for her friends and family she wrote: "If I have known the excitement of medicine, it is, with your help, teachers, fellow radiologists, and clinicians. Thank you. If I have known hope, it is because of your encouragement. This, because you are faithful friends and family. Thank you."

Her unflagging optimism, energy, and resilience in dealing with her disease set an example for all those who knew of her illness. Knowing her has been a true pleasure for those of us privileged to call her colleague and friend.

The Society for Pediatric Radiology Research and Education Foundation has established a grant in her name. Contributions in memory of Heidi should be sent to:

SPR Research and Education Foundation
C/O IMM
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