

Hooshang Taybi, M.D. (1919-2006)

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Hooshang Taybi, a world-renowned pediatric radiologist and treasured friend and colleague, died at his home in Walnut Creek, California on 7 August 2006. Dr. Taybi was born on 22 October 1919 in Malayer, Iran. After graduating from Teheran University School of Medicine in 1944, he took a very interesting, circuitous route to become one of the most well-respected and accomplished pediatric radiologists in the world.

Dr. Taybi arrived in the U.S. in December, 1948 intent on receiving specialty training in pediatrics. He completed his pediatric residency at Akron Children's Hospital. There he met a nurse, Alice Baum, who was working with children afflicted with polio. They married and recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. He trained in pediatric radiology with Dr. Fred Silverman in Cincinnati and their relationship had a profound impact on his life and career.

After completing his Radiology Board requirements in New York, he accepted pediatric radiology positions in Oklahoma, Indiana, and in San Francisco. In 1967, he was hired as the Director of Radiology at Children's Hospital Oakland (CHO) where he spent the majority of his illustrious career. He continued as Director until 1986 and worked part time at CHO until 1990. He had been an active clinical professor at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) since 1964. From 1987 to 1994, he served as a part-time attending pediatric radiologist at UCSF.

The well-deserved honors and awards he received are impressive. Most noteworthy are the major awards that signify the magnitude of his accomplishments: President of the Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR) from 1973 to

1974; Gold Medal from the SPR in 1993 (the most distinguished honor to be bestowed upon a pediatric radiologist "who has contributed greatly to the subspecialty of Pediatric Radiology as a scientist, teacher, personal mentor, and leader"); the "Bronze Bambino Award" from Children's Hospital Oakland for his many years of devoted service. He is credited with describing three syndromes that bear his name. He was a founding member of the Pacific Coast Pediatric Radiology Association, a long-term member of the John Caffey Society, and an honorary member of several international radiological societies. He published many original and review articles and lectured extensively around the world.

Dr. Taybi's greatest academic contribution, however, is "the book," *Radiology of Syndromes*, first published in 1975. The later editions were written with his friend and colleague, Dr. Ralph Lachman and are now entitled *Radiology of Syndromes, Metabolic Disorders, and Skeletal Dysplasias*. It is widely considered the most useful reference in pediatric radiology and was the result of Dr. Taybi's determination to contribute something important for the diagnosis and treatment of children. An editorial comment by Walter Berdon in 1993 states "The Pediatric Radiologic world surely could never have functioned without this remarkable physician. His Syndrome book, soon to be in its 4th edition, is an unbelievable creation."

Dr. Taybi retired from medical practice in 1994 and directed his energy and talents to numerous hobbies. After learning the art of jewelry making, he fashioned the ceremonial presidential chains for the SPR and the ESPR. He always felt that "It is better to give than to receive" and gave generously to the SPR and to Children's Hospital Oakland Foundation.

His passion for learning and teaching, his warmth and kindness, his integrity, and his generosity never ceased to amaze us. He was truly inspirational to the many people he "touched" throughout his life. Dr. Hooshang Taybi is survived by his devoted wife, Alice, and his two sons, Paul and Claude. At Dr. Taybi's request, his ashes will be scattered at sea in the presence of his loving family.

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