Radiology Historian Shares Experiences

Otha W. Linton has written about radiology as a journalist and public relations professional for the past 50 years. During his speech to SRS members at the ARRS 2013 Annual Meeting, Mr. Linton traced the early days of radiology and detailed the work he has accomplished—including publishing 14 books for several radiology organizations—to educate and inform radiologists, the federal government, and the public about the values and achievements of radiologic medicine.

He opened his talk with an interesting anecdote about the first years of his career. In 1965, the same year Medicare was passed, he was given a “tremendous challenge to persuade the government to recognize radiology as a physician specialty and not simply as a form of hospital service,” he said. “So we went about telling anyone about x-ray imaging and were able to persuade Congress to favor us. Then I was sent from Chicago to Washington to defend our role with Medicare and other public health programs. For many years, we would persuade federal government administrators to come with us to an academic radiology department, where we would give them a white coat and spend a day watching every part of a radiology practice. We invited newspaper and television reporters to visit our groups. About the same time, we recruited medical students to opt for specialization in radiology.”

As his career progressed, Mr. Linton’s passion for radiology and its history took him to academic and medical institutions across the country that were noted for making very early and significant contributions to the development of radiologic medicine. For example, he visited the University of Pennsylvania, where physicist Arthur Goodspeed experimented with x-rays before 1890; Boston University, where Francis Williams wrote the first comprehensive radiology books in the United States and William Rollins drastically improved the same gas tubes Wilhelm Roentgen used to discover the x-ray; and the Dotter Institute at the University of Oregon, where Charles Dotter developed angiography and the use of catheter studies to visualize vascular systems. Additionally, he emphasized the important role that other countries have played in the advancement of radiology, namely Germany, where Mr. Roentgen lived and worked.

One of the proudest moments in Mr. Linton’s career was when he was asked in 1995 to organize a centennial radiology celebration, which was exactly a century after Wilhelm Roentgen made his discovery. Mr. Linton worked with the last surviving members of the “Gas Tube Gang” (developers of early imaging technology) to collect early books, equipment, old films, and other memorabilia. He said,

A Word from the Chair
by Bruce L. McClennan

A most interesting lecture by SRS featured speaker Otha Linton, private tour of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and SRS cocktail reception were among the highlights of the ARRS 2013 Annual Meeting. This event boasts a great turnout—nearly 2,800 attendees.

The photo spread in this issue and summary of Otha’s talk should remind those who attended of the pleasant times we had in our nation’s capital. With 142 members, SRS continues to provide valuable stimulation and support for our members. We are an integral part of ARRS annual meetings. For those who could not join us at the meeting, please consider coming to next year’s meeting at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, May 4 to 9, and renewing your membership in SRS.

Your SRS staff support team at ARRS now includes Michele Bupp, in Publications, and Sharon Huffman, in Membership, who has been our stalwart partner since SRS began more than a decade ago.

The newsletter, you will notice, has undergone a “facelift” under Michele’s guidance, and we are always looking for new content and features. Email your ideas to Michele at mbupp@arrs.org or call her at 703-858-4332.

In closing, I thank current and new members who attended SRS events at the meeting and send my regards to all of you as summer finally addresses our pent-up desires for warmth, sunshine, and well-deserved vacations.
SRS Notes

SRS Members Celebrate Radiology and Fellowship at the ARRS 2013 Annual Meeting

SRS members and their spouses enjoyed a plethora of activities at this year’s annual meeting in Washington DC in April, a highlight of which was the annual SRS Reception, hosted by current SRS chair Bruce L. McClennan, a past president of ARRS (2005–06).

On these two pages is a montage of photos captured throughout the week of SRS members. Look closely—you might spot yourself or someone you know at the President’s Reception, SRS Reception, or Executive Council Dinner at the Italian Embassy! (*To see these photos in full color, go online to ARRS.org, Membership header, Senior Radiologists.*)
Announcements…

Generosity Abounds

Attendees of the annual meeting donated $7,100 to The Roentgen Fund®, which supports valuable education for radiologists. Want to learn more about The Roentgen Fund and how you can help? Go to arrs.org, The Roentgen Fund.

Upcoming ARRS Annual Meetings

May 4–9, 2014
Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego

April 19–24, 2015
Metro Toronto Convention Center

April 17–22, 2016
Los Angeles Convention Center

April 30–May 5, 2017
Hyatt Regency New Orleans

Welcome New Members…

We wish a special welcome to our newest members:

William C. Acton, MD • James E. Reinhardt, MD

Linton, continued from page 1

“We involved 50 societies and most of the companies that sold radiology equipment and products to complete three books describing the development of diagnostic radiology, growth of radiation treatment of cancer, the advent of radioisotopes, ultrasound, physics, and by then, CT and MRI.” A portion of the project benefitted young school children with “sets of slides, videotapes, and a learning file about ionizing radiation for science teachers.” The centennial celebration went international, and the tools were used in Australia, Japan, and the U.K.

When asked why he’s dedicated his career to studying and promoting radiology, he responded, “My own career with radiology has been in efforts to define and develop the specialty, expand subspecialties, obtain compensation for radiologists, help recruit bright medical students to opt into the specialty, and to tell politicians, reporters, and educators about the achievements and advances of that modern and well-established specialty—radiology.”

And he doesn’t plan on his travel or writing schedule slowing down anytime soon: Mr. Linton has two more histories being published in the coming months!