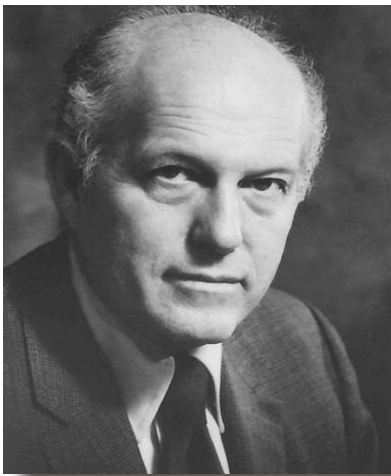




IN MEMORIAM

W. Newlon Tauxe 1924 - 2012

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Dr. Tauxe, a leader in the field of nuclear medicine, was born in Knoxville Tennessee, May 24, 1924. He studied engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, before joining the Army during World War II. He became interested in medicine while recovering from an injury, served as a medical technician in the European theater, and returned to Tennessee in 1946 to complete his undergraduate studies and graduated from the University of Tennessee medical school in Memphis in 1951. After an internship at the Gadsden Hospital in Memphis, he worked in the occupational health clinic at the National Laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It was there that he became interested in the potential value of radioisotopes in medicine. He moved to Rochester, Minnesota, in 1953, completed residencies in Anatomical and Clinical Pathology at the Mayo Clinic, joined the staff, and became director of the newly

formed laboratory of Nuclear Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, where he pioneered the use of radioactive tracers to measure the function of the lungs, heart, thyroid, and kidneys. He trained many medical students, residents and post-doctoral fellows in the potential applications of this rapidly developing field. He worked with colleagues around the world to develop new image processing methods on the high speed computers of the day. The applications were broad, from measuring the background radioactivity in schoolchildren due to nuclear test fallout to capturing the simultaneous flow of breath and blood through the lungs. He became particularly expert in detecting thyroid and kidney disease.

In 1973, he moved to Birmingham, Alabama, to become Director of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Alabama Medical Center. He directed the Nuclear Medicine Residency program there and established the first formal training program for Nuclear Medicine Technology. In 1983, he moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he directed the Division of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and continued as a leader in the field, pioneering methods for assessing the function of transplanted organs using radioisotopes. After retiring in 1994, he remained professionally active as Professor Emeritus, including serving on the medical student selection committee. Spending winters in San Diego after 2002, he continued to advise and teach medical students there as an adjunct professor at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Tauxe was a founding member of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, served on the Board of Trustees of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, and was active in the European Society of Nuclear Medicine. He helped to establish training and board certification programs in the discipline in many countries. He edited textbooks on the use of nuclear medicine techniques in oncology and kidney disease, and wrote more than 230 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters in the field.

An amateur painter and musician, he fostered music in the communities where he lived. He led the Community Concert program in Rochester for many years to bring classical music performers to that city. He served on the Boards of the Pittsburgh Opera and the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society, and added his tenor voice to community choruses and church choirs. Other diversions included gardening, cooking and building miniature architectural paper models. Since 1985, he advocated for nuclear disarmament and peaceful solutions to international problems as a member of the Physicians for Social Responsibility, and also promoted iodization of salt around the world to prevent goiter and cretinism. He and his wife supported efforts to connect person-to-person with the people of Russia and China at a time when such contacts were very limited. He was a longtime active member of the Unitarian Universalist church and a Humanist. Proficient in numerous languages, he enjoyed adding to his repertoire throughout his life by travel, study, and fearless attempts at conversation in their language with anyone he met.

Dr. Tauxe was beloved by family and friends for his kindness, optimism, wit and boundless curiosity. He is survived by his spouse, Margaret H. Tauxe, born in Covington, Tennessee and now living in San Diego, his brother, Dr. Edward L. Tauxe of Tallahassee, Florida, his four children, Robert Tauxe of Atlanta, Lisa Tauxe of San Diego, Caroline Tauxe of Syracuse, New York, and John Tauxe of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and 9 grandchildren. A website in memoriam is being established at wntaxe.tauxe.net for friends and colleagues around the world. A private memorial service will be scheduled in the future by the family. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Physicians for Social Responsibility.