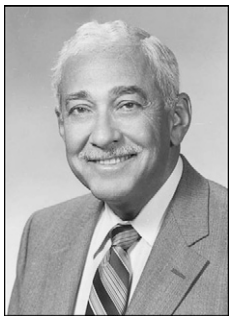
IN MEMORIAM

Nilo E. Herrera, Sr., MD 1923–2008

Nilo E. Herrera Sr., MD, a pioneer in nuclear medicine quality assurance and practice accreditation, died on September 16 in Clayton, NC. He was born in the Dominican Republic and received his medical degree from the University of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) in 1950. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 1951, completed an internship in pathology at the University of Vermont (Burlington), and completed a residency in pathology at St. Vincent's Hospital (Bridgeport, CT) in 1956.



Nilo E. Herrera, Sr., MD

Herrera began his academic career as an instructor in pathology at the University of Vermont and went on to hold faculty positions at Yale University Medical School (New Haven, CT), New York Medical College (NY), the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña School of Medicine (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic), and the University of Connecticut (Farmington). He retired formally in 1991 as the chair and director of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Nuclear Medicine at Danbury (CT) Hospital. He had established the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Nuclear Medicine at Danbury Hospital in 1982 and continued to serve as its director until 1999.

Herrera was especially effective in focusing multidisciplinary attention on establishing consensus standards for nuclear medicine instrumentation and practice. In 1971, he conducted the first workshop in nuclear medicine at a College of American Pathologists (CAP) meeting in Chicago, IL. As a result of this event, the CAP created the Council on Nuclear Medicine in 1972, with Herrera as its first chair. Under his leadership, the council created an inspection checklist to be included as part of the CAP laboratory inspection and accreditation program. Beginning in 1972, the CAP council produced phantoms each year. Herrera was instrumental in shifting the phantom program to the American College of Nuclear Physicians (ACNP) in 1998. He then chaired the Quality Assurance and Phantom Committee of the ACNP for several years and remained an active committee member until poor health ended his participation in 2003. The committee continues to produce phantoms under SNM auspices.

Herrera was keenly aware of the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation. I had the pleasure of working with him and with Myron Pollycove, MD, in opening the CAP program for participation by nuclear medicine physicians in 1984. He appreciated the synergy generated when scientists from different perspectives could identify shared goals and strategies for advancement. He carried this enthusiasm into his service in numerous society board and governance positions. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Anatomical Pathology and the American Board of Clinical Pathology and was a director and lifetime board member of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. He served in leadership roles in SNM, CAP (fellow), American Society of Clinical Pathologists (fellow), ACNP (fellow), and on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes. He authored and coauthored more than 50 publications and abstracts as well as 7 books based on his medical research and clinical experience.

Dr. Herrera is survived by 4 children and 5 grandchildren. A memorial service was held in Danbury, CT.

Terence Beven, MD
Baton Rouge, LA

(Continued from page 20N)

21. Chu T, Li R, Hu S, Liu X, Wang X. Preparation and biodistribution of technetium-99m-labeled 1-(2-nitroimidazole-1-yl)-propanhydroxyiminoamide (N2IPA) as a tumor hypoxia marker. *Nucl Med Biol.* 2004;31:199–203.
22. Chu T, Zhang Y, Liu X, Wang Y, Hu S, Wang X. Synthesis and biodistribution of (99m)Tc-carbonyltechnetium-labeled fatty acids. *Appl Radiat Isot.* 2004;60:845–850.
23. Yang MF, Dou KF, Liu XJ, Yang YJ, He ZX. Prognostic value of normal exercise ^{99m}Tc-sestamibi myocardial tomography in patients with angiographic coronary artery disease. *Nucl Med Commun.* 2006;27:333–338.
24. Zhang X, Liu XJ, Hu S, et al. Long-term survival of patients with viable and nonviable aneurysms assessed by ^{99m}Tc-MIBI SPECT and ^{18}F-FDG PET: a comparative study of medical and surgical treatment. *J Nucl Med.* 2008;49:1288–1298.

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