

WILLIAM R. HENDEE: AWARDED THE IOMP'S HAROLD E. JOHNS MEDAL, 2015



At the 2015 World Congress, the IOMP awarded the Harold E. Johns Medal to a medical physicist with many unique qualities; one who is an example for fellow colleagues to emulate, and who has been a mentor to an enormous number of medical physicists. This physicist is known as a reformer, a person full of energy and enthusiasm, a mover and shaker, and an achiever beyond imagination not only in academic medical physics but in clinical, administrative and policy-setting roles. Professor William R. Hendee, known to many as "Bill" is an esteemed colleague and a wonderful, engaging person.

Bill grew up in the country in the southern U.S. state of Mississippi. His interest in physics was piqued by an inspiring high school physics teacher. This interest led to a bachelors degree in physics from Millsaps College, also in Mississippi, after which he received an Atomic Energy Commission fellowship to study at Vanderbilt University. A second fellowship took him to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, where he studied with Professor Jack Krohmer. Bill received a PhD in 1962 in medical physics and then returned to Mississippi to teach at Millsaps College and also participate in the civil rights movement. Soon afterwards, he became chairman of the department of physics and astronomy at Millsaps College.

Bill pursued his interest in medical physics, and when an opportunity arose, he joined the faculty of the Department of Radiology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. His accomplishments at Colorado were numerous: he built one of the country's most highly respected medical physics departments, created a highly-respected graduate medical physics program and a postdoctoral fellowship program, built one of the six Centers for Radiological Physics that were funded by the National Cancer Institute, and created the Rocky Mountain Radiation Therapy Planning Network, which brought computerized treatment planning

capabilities to radiation therapy departments in rural areas in and around Colorado. For the last ten years of his tenure at Colorado, Bill was professor and chairman of the Department of Radiology; he is the only medical physicist to our knowledge to have been chairman of an academic radiology department.

In 1985, Bill moved to Chicago to become Vice President for Science, Technology and Public Health at the American Medical Association, and subsequently served as the Executive Secretary of the AMA Council of Scientific Affairs. Then in 1991 Dr. Hendee left the AMA to join the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) as Senior Associate Dean for Research and Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. During his time at MCW, he also served as Vice Chair of Radiology, President of the MCW Research Foundation, and Interim Dean of the MCW School of Medicine. He retired from these administrative positions in 2005-06, but until the end of 2014 he retained academic appointments at MCW as Distinguished Professor of Radiology, Radiation Oncology, Biophysics and Bioethics. He also held the positions of Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Marquette University, Adjunct Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Adjunct Professor of Radiology at the University of New Mexico, University of Colorado, and Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. Dr. Hendee has authored or edited approximately 30 books, and has authored or co-authored more than 450 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

Dr. Hendee has served as president of several organizations, including the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, Society of Nuclear Medicine, American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, and American Board of Radiology. He recently completed a term as Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Radiology Foundation, and was President and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs. For ten years, Bill served as the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Medical Physics*, where he oversaw a number of changes that increased considerably the quality, visibility and reputation of the journal.

Dr. Hendee was also an active contributor to the IOMP. He served for two terms as Chair of the Publications Committee of the IOMP and for a term as Chair of the Science Committee. He has been a member of the IOMP Executive Committee, and served on the

IOMP Board of Delegates as a representative of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

Dr. Hendee and his wife Jeannie divide their time between their homes in Rochester, MN and Wautoma, WI. They have seven children and seven grandchildren.

Congratulations on behalf of IOMP Executive Committee:

Geoffrey S. Ibbott, Ph.D.
Chair IOMP Scientific Com
Professor and Chairman
Department of Radiation Physics
UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center