



Bruce Leonard Holman



Bruce Leonard Holman died of metastatic cancer of the esophagus on February 1, 1998. He was 56 years old. Despite the certain knowledge of the outcome of his disease, he spent the last year of his life as he had lived, leading the department of radiology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, helping to define the field of radiology and nuclear medicine on the national scene, and relaxing with his friends and family.

Leonard was born in Sheboygen, Wisconsin. As a boy, he was both bookish and curious. Early interested in science and in photography with special effects, he arranged his toy soldiers on a fiery battlefield that burned up the family's card table. The resulting photos, like his later work, were spectacular. In retrospect, this combination of

interests was wonderfully well suited to the career of an investigational radiologist.

Len graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and attended the medical school of Washington University. His radiologic and nuclear medical training was obtained at the Malinckrodt Institute. His mentor there, James Potchen, started him in research and encouraged him to accept an academic offer from Harvard. After coming to the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in 1970, he quickly assumed the responsibility for managing the clinical service, designing an educational program in nuclear medicine for residents in radiology, and developing a research program in cardiac nuclear imaging. Thus began a decade-long effort concerned with regional myocardial blood flow, acute myocardial infarct radioindicators, and quantitative cardiac dynamics. The latter are beautifully explicated in the text he wrote with Tony Parker. In 1976, he became an established investigator of the American Heart Association.

In the early 1980s, Harvard was given the SPECT instrumentation facilities of the Union Carbide Company, which was going out of the business. Len saw this as a golden opportunity and committed

himself to SPECT development. He understood that SPECT would be particularly useful for studying the brain and worked to perfect the instrumentation. His subsequent clinical studies, many with Keith Johnson, earned him a worldwide reputation in the imaging of stroke, degenerative brain disease, and drug addiction. The latter findings aroused his interest in social issues and led to his award-winning film *Cocaine and the Brain*, which was widely distributed and is still used for drug abuse education in middle schools and elsewhere.

Leonard became a professor in 1982; he was appointed chair of radiology at the Brigham-Harvard department in 1986 and Philip H. Cook Professor in 1988. As an administrator, Len invigorated and motivated his faculty with intellectual intensity and vibrancy. He gave special attention to the selection of residents, fellows and junior faculty members, convinced that he could nurture them, advance their careers, and foster their academic growth. He was an advisor and active supporter of people and ideas.

Nothing represents Leonard's determination and administrative perseverance better than his vigorous support of magnetic resonance image-guided therapy. At the onset, he recognized that this innovation not only represented a new and exciting field for research but, also, a clinical tool of far reaching potential. He carefully built the necessary support structure for the MRT project, persuading the hospital leadership to uphold the endeavor and organizing a drive for industrial funding. He also helped to form and advance the multidisciplinary, interdepartmental clinical and research collaboration necessarily required for success.

His vision of leadership included managerial and executive goals as well. His tenure covered an unusual period of clinical and academic growth at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. Between 1985 and 1994, the institution was transformed into a medium-to-large general hospital, expanding the breadth and depth of its programs and becoming a founding institution in Partners HealthCare. Leonard's insight and creativity coupled with his modest demeanor allowed him to be influential in the decision-making circles during this period. In 1994, he became one of the first department chairs to institute a program of active integration with his counterpart at the Massachusetts General Hospital. As a founding cochair of Partners Radiology, he facilitated the launching of half a dozen collaborative initiatives considered leading examples of cooperation among the Partners clinical departments.

On the national scene, Leonard was fervent about expanding the profile and influence of academic radiology. He was a moving force in the Academy of Radiology Research and led the fight to have the imaging sciences more appropriately represented to the federal funding agencies. He believed that, embedded as the disciplines are in technology, it needs an advocacy separate from those that are disease and organ oriented. He took his arguments to capital hill where, despite his illness he argued passionately for the radiologic sciences to have their own institute at NIH. His desire, under the circumstances, to use the bully pulpit he occupied as a result of his national and academic standing came from a strong sense of commitment and duty. The current elevation in status of diagnostic imaging in the intra- and extra-mural programs of NIH is surely due, in part, to his efforts.

Len was a prodigious writer and lecturer. He was the author of more than 300 original reports and reviews and of forty book chapters. He edited seven books and between 1975 and 1995 delivered more than 200 invited and named lectures.

Yet, with all this accomplishment and recognition, Leonard remained scholarly, generous, thoughtful and unassuming. In person, he was open and friendly, only impatient with those he thought deceitful or opportunistic. His family was dear to him, and despite the outside demands on his time, he was in their company as often as he could be. He taught us all how to live and achieve with creativity and vision and, when his time had come – all too soon, how to accept the inevitability of death with grace and strength.

Respectfully submitted,

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