



Stanley Moore Wyman



Stanley Moore Wyman was born on August 13, 1913 in Cambridge and died in July, 1996. His professional career spanned more than 50 years which he devoted to radiology and the MGH. All of his formal training was accomplished within the Boston vicinity; he graduated from Cambridge High and Latin School in 1930, received his BA from Harvard College in 1935, and his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1939. Following a rotating internship at Faulkner Hospital, and one year as a surgical resident in the Middlesex County Sanitarium, he found his niche in radiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

The Radiology department had just moved into the newly completed White Building and was staffed by figures of great historical note, including George

Holmes, Awbrey Hampton, James Lingley, and Richard Schatzki. Dr. Wyman ruefully noted that during his first year of residency, he burned out an x-ray tube trying to take a portable chest film of a patient with a converter rated for 120 volts direct current while the available power was 220! He noted that the department chair was unusually understanding of this little problem. In 1942, while still in his first year as Assistant Resident in Radiology, he published his first paper in the New England Journal.

During that first year of residency, the war clouds began to gather on the horizon and a volunteer reserve unit of the army medical corps was organized as the sixth general hospital to represent the MGH in the army. Stan was one of the volunteers and the unit was activated for duty on 5/15/42. The sixth went to Florida for training and in February 1942 was ordered to Casablanca, North Africa. They moved with the troops through Africa, landed at Naples for the Italian campaign, and ultimately ended in the Poe Valley with the defeat of the German Army. While serving Stan received the Bronze Star and 5 Battle Stars. He is also remembered for setting up the first field fluoroscopy unit in the North African Theatre. He actually did this to do a chest examination of Winston Churchill who had a cold during one of his visits. But the

unit proved equally valuable for examining war casualties. In the years of his absence from the MGH, he missed two memorable events--the Coconut Grove fire and the appointment of the first woman as assistant resident in radiology--Lucy Frank Squires.

Returning to the MGH in 1946, Dr. Wyman completed his radiology residency and then joined the radiology staff. This was a time of building for the MGH, as most of the older members retired and the staff consisted of young and dynamic individuals such as Holmes and Larry Robbins. To capture the period, it was at this time that a 3 mev therapy machine was installed for radiation treatments and a radiology research laboratory was established with donor support from Mrs. Theodore A Brown and the US government. The latter housed an experimental angiocardiology unit that was directed by Dr. Wyman with enthusiastic support from Gordon Scannel (surgery), Arlan Freidlich, J Willis Hurst and Gordon Myers (cardiology). There was no commercial angiocardiology equipment available, but several home made devices from this lab were later adopted for clinical use. Dr. Wyman and Frank Schultz developed a spot film device which allowed for rapid films of the heart with contrast present. They reported many of the initial cardiac and vascular applications of this unique facility.

He next became recognized as an outstanding gastrointestinal radiologist, and many of his subsequent papers reflect this leaning. His co-authors included the Drs. Eiler, Robbins, E. W. Wilkins, F.J. Ingelfinger and F.G. Fleishner. He reported what may have been the first placebo-controlled clinical trial of pharmacologic methods to control gastrointestinal motility during radiographic studies. The study design also included the use of adult volunteers who fasted for three weeks.

However, the mark of this man was in the breadth of his clinical practice and educational excellence. Throughout his career he remained a superb general radiologist, a truly caring physician and the ultimate consultant. Dr. Wyman also established a successful and respected private office practice in Cambridge and Boston. Wherever he practiced, he showed unfailing devotion to the human aspect of medicine as well as science. The needs and welfare of the patient were always foremost in his thought and dictated his actions.

His devotion to students and their devotion to him were legendary. For many years, Stan would moderate noontime case discussions in the old Robbins room at the MGH Radiology Department. He earned the endearing title of "whispering Stan" as he would whisper the observations and answers to residents stumbling over the cases.

He had many outside interests; he was licensed for single and multiengine planes and gliders, including commercial and instrument ratings. He was a member of the Economy Club of Cambridge and the Aesculapian Club of HMS. However, he was always extraordinarily involved in the affairs of medicine, serving in numerous capacities to all the important medical societies. The mark of his leadership is that he became President of the American College of Radiology and also served as Chairman of the Board of Chancellor for the ACR. He served as a Delegate to the House of Delegates of the American

Medical Society. He was president of all of the following; the Massachusetts Medical Society of the Massachusetts Radiology Society, the New England Roentgen Ray Society, and the Radiological Society of North America. He was awarded the Gold Medal by both the American College of Radiology and the RSNA, and the Silver Medal by the American Roentgen Ray Society.

At the MGH, he established the prestigious annual Hampton Lecture (1968). For the last six years, the Stanley Moore Wyman Resident Award for the MGH radiology resident who best exhibits the integrity, humility, compassion, and dedication to excellence exemplified by its honoree has been presented at this event.

Even in his last years of life, he continued to practice radiology in the outpatient Radiology department at MGH. He was always the first staff person to arrive. For the rest of the morning, he maintained his position in front of a set of view boxes in what became known as “Stan’s spot”. From there he dispensed wisdom, advice, comfort, praise, encouragement, stories and humor to anyone who was in need--be they staff, residents, fellows, technologists, nurses, medical students, secretaries or lost patients. His own family was no less a priority for Dr. Wyman. He enjoyed visiting his children and became a “dotting” grandfather in his last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald L. Wolf, *chairperson*
Deborah Hall, MD