Dr. Morton A. Bosniak, MD

A true giant in the field of radiology, Morton A. Bosniak, MD, professor emeritus of Radiology, peacefully and comfortably passed away on September 7, 2016 after a long battle with multiple health issues.

Dr. Bosniak received his MD from SUNY Downstate Medical Center and completed his training in radiology at New York Hospital. He began his professional career at Montefiore in 1961, and later joined the Department of Radiology at Bellevue Hospital Center in 1969. Over the course of his career, Dr. Bosniak published over 140 original articles, multiple book chapters, and he was a visiting professor at over 120 different institutions around the world.

Dr. Bosniak served as president of the Society of Uroradiology, and president of the New York Roentgen Society. He received several distinguished awards, including the Pollack Medal of The Society of Uroradiology, given for in recognition for outstanding contributions to the field of Uroradiology, and the Gold Medal of the Radiologic Society of North America, awarded to outstanding contributors to the field of radiology. Later this month at their annual meeting, Dr. Bosniak will posthumously receive a Gold Medal from the Society of Computed Tomography and MR. In addition, the Morton A. Bosniak Research Award from the Society of Abdominal Radiology is named in his honor.

Dr. Bosniak was a pioneer in the field of visceral angiography, particularly for renal mass evaluation. By seamlessly applying this knowledge, he became a world leader in abdominal CT radiology. In the late 1970’s—as CT and ultrasound were becoming integral parts of clinical medicine—Dr. Bosniak was the first to recognize that successful radiologists in the future would need to master all techniques related to abdominal imaging. In this spirit, he created the first “Abdominal Imaging” fellowship in the United States, which represented a change to the traditional modality-based fellowships that were prevalent at that time.

Dr. Bosniak was a founder of NYU Langone’s Abdominal Imaging Section which is considered among the top in the country. He further extended his educational mission by establishing a yearly radiology course where members of the NYU faculty were able to lecture. This year, the Morton A. Bosniak Head to Toe Imaging Conference is celebrating its 35th anniversary, and consistently attracts more than 500 registrants annually.
His observational research has changed the practice of medicine. Significant publications include the first paper documenting the safety of partial nephrectomy for renal cell cancer in appropriately selected patients; previously all renal cancers were surgically treated with total nephrectomies. He published the first paper discouraging surgical treatment of small renal cell cancers, particularly in elderly patients, documenting the indolent nature of many of these tumors that are <3 cm. The concept that a cancer could actually be observed and not immediately removed was years ahead of emerging knowledge that many tumors throughout the body are not lethal, the treatment being worse than the disease.

His seminal classification of the malignant potential of cystic renal masses is a signature work. The Bosniak classification is known to every radiologist, urologist, nephrologist, and any other physician who cares for patients with renal disease. The classification is applied worldwide and is the underpinning of all further refinement in diagnosis of kidney disease.

Finally, Dr. Bosniak served as a mentor and role model to many radiologists both at NYU Langone and across the country. Those who knew him will always remember his passion for learning, intellectual rigor, keen observational abilities, and devotion to the field of radiology.

He is survived by his wife Tommie; his daughter Linda Bosniak and her husband, Andrew Bush; and his granddaughters Tanya and Jessica Bush.

The family will hold a private funeral service in his honor. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be directed to one of the below organizations:

- NYU School of Medicine, specifically “In memory of Dr. Morton A. Bosniak for the Abdominal Section Research Fund,” mailed to the Office of Development, NYU-Langone Medical Center, One Park Ave, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10016, Attn: Gift Processing
- Aplastic Anemia MDS International Foundation, 100 Park Avenue, Suite 108; Rockville, MD 20850 or www.aamds.org/donate

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, and to all those who knew and worked with Dr. Bosniak.