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RSNA Awards Gold Medals to Drs. Leopold, Osborn and Petasnick

CHICAGO, Nov. 28, 2006 — Today the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) conferred its highest honor, the Gold Medal, upon George R. Leopold, M.D., of San Diego, Calif.; Anne G. Osborn, M.D., of Salt Lake City, Utah; and Jerry P. Petasnick, M.D., of Chicago, Ill.

Gold Medals are presented each year to individuals who have rendered exemplary service to the science of radiology and who have received unanimous approval by the RSNA Board of Directors—a tradition that originated in 1919.

George R. Leopold, M.D.

George R. Leopold, M.D., is a champion of sonography whose achievements have continually earned him critical acclaim from his colleagues. He has spent many of his 40-plus years in medicine contributing to science and education in ultrasonography.

RSNA President Robert R. Hattery, M.D., said his association with Dr. Leopold began more than 30 years ago, when the two went head-to-head during a presentation on ultrasound versus computed tomography (CT) of the pancreas.

“I was intimidated,” Dr. Hattery said. “But he was a gracious professional and became a mentor to me and many others over the years.”

“When such praise comes from the world’s largest and most prestigious radiologic organization, it is especially treasured,” said Dr. Leopold. “The RSNA Gold Medal is the high water mark of my career.”

Dr. Leopold spent two years in the U.S. Air Force and completed his medical education at the University of Pittsburgh. He became assistant clinical professor at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) in 1968 and was promoted to professor of

radiology in 1976 and chair of the department in 1985, where he remained until his retirement in 2001. His chairmanship earned the UCSD Department of Radiology a national reputation for excellence.

Dr. Leopold has received gold medals from the American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS), American College of Radiology (ACR) and Association of University Radiologists (AUR) and the Walter B. Cannon Medal from the Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists (SGR). Last year, Dr. Leopold was named one of his area's "top doctors" in a survey conducted by *San Diego Magazine*.

Dr. Leopold has served in many capacities with ACR, ABR, SGR, ARRS, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine and the San Diego Radiological Society. An RSNA member since 1974, he served as RSNA second vice-president from 1979 to 1981.

Dr. Leopold co-authored *Fundamentals of Abdominal and Pelvic Sonography*, one of the earliest sonographic texts in the field.

Anne G. Osborn, M.D.

Anne G. Osborn, M.D., has distinguished herself as the first female president of the American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR) and co-creator of the first comprehensive point-of-care electronic imaging reference system.

RSNA President Robert R. Hattery, M.D., noted that Dr. Osborn is bright, well-organized and intensely focused on what she believes.

"She is respected and highly motivated to serve our specialty," he said. "I always want her on my side, because she is committed."

"After 30 years of teaching, writing and practicing clinical neuroradiology, I still feel a sense of joy and eager anticipation each and every day," said Dr. Osborn.

A Distinguished Professor of Radiology at the University of Utah School of Medicine, where she holds the William H. and Patricia W. Child Presidential Endowed Chair in Radiology, Dr. Osborn has remained on the cutting edge of her field, particularly in the area of interactive education. Dr. Osborn and two of her medical students won the Magna Cum Laude Scientific Exhibit award at RSNA 1987 for their precedent-setting computer interactive teaching program in neuroradiology.

One of the profession's most prolific writers, Dr. Osborn is known especially for developing one of the first radiology texts created specifically for personal digital assistants, *PocketRadiologist: Brain*. She also serves as editor-in-chief of the *Yearbook of Diagnostic Radiology*.

Dr. Osborn was elected ASNR president in 1988 and first vice-president of RSNA in 2000. An RSNA member since 1978, she currently sits on the RSNA Research & Education Foundation Board of Trustees as a liaison for fund development.

Dr. Osborn is the recipient of the Asian Oceanian Congress of Radiology gold medal. She has also received the Marie Curie Award from the American Association for Women Radiologists, the gold medals of the Chicago Radiological Society and ASNR, the Bécclère medal of the International Society of Radiology and the Rosenblatt Prize for Excellence from the University of Utah.

At the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C., Dr. Osborn was the 1989-90 Distinguished Scientist and served as GE Healthcare Visiting Professor in Diagnostic Imaging for 17 years.

Dr. Osborn is currently collaborating with radiologists and other physicians worldwide on what she calls the "Holy Grail" of radiology—a clinical point-of-care decision-support system depicting common and uncommon imaging manifestations of disorders in the human body.

Jerry P. Petasnick, M.D.

Jerry P. Petasnick, M.D., is considered by many to be the personification of professionalism and integrity in the radiology community.

"Dr. Petasnick is innovative, creative, and a tireless worker," said RSNA President Robert R. Hattery, M.D. "He is strong leader and a man who can make difficult decisions when necessary. I admire him."

"The Gold Medal is the most prestigious award that I have received," said Dr. Petasnick. "My commitment to RSNA and to the training of residents and students has filled a significant portion of my professional life and has allowed me to give back to radiology those things that have influenced my career."

Dr. Petasnick began his career in 1970 at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, where he remains today. Serving as director of general radiology and then chair of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology in 1988, Dr. Petasnick has also contributed significantly to the body of knowledge in diagnostic radiology.

Dr. Petasnick retired in 2001 and was immediately appointed director of the residency program at Rush.

An RSNA member since 1971 and president of the Society in 2001, Dr. Petasnick has served on the RSNA scientific and technical exhibits committees and educational council. He was Board chairman in 1999 and chair of the RSNA Research & Education (R&E) Foundation Board of Trustees in 2004. He has also held numerous executive positions and committee appointments with the ACR, Illinois Radiological Society and Chicago Radiological Society, which awarded him its distinguished service award in 2000.

Dr. Petasnick has continually urged his peers to give back to the specialty and helped launch a new giving program for private practice groups with the RSNA R&E Foundation.

“Radiology reinvents itself every five to 10 years. I saw the introduction of modalities like ultrasound, CT and magnetic resonance imaging,” he said. “There is always something new to do. Our specialty is continuously changing.”

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Note: Copies of RSNA 2006 news releases and electronic images will be available online at RSNA.org/press06 beginning Monday, Nov. 27.

RSNA is an association of more than 40,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists, medical physicists and related scientists committed to promoting excellence in radiology through education and by fostering research, with the ultimate goal of improving patient care. The Society is based in Oak Brook, Ill.