

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## UT SOUTHWESTERN RADIOLOGIST HONORED FOR LONGTIME CONTRIBUTIONS TO NUCLEAR MEDICINE

DALLAS — March 7, 1997 — Dr. Frederick Bonte, who helped establish the American College of Nuclear Physicians in 1971, has received the organization's highest honor for his significant contributions to medicine.

The President's Award is the latest in a long list of honors bestowed on Bonte, director of UT Southwestern's Nuclear Medicine Center, for his pioneering work in using radioactive materials in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, especially of the heart and brain.

"The first reason I chose Fred — and there were many reasons — was because of his reputation and prowess as an educator," said Dr. David Brill, the American College of Nuclear Physicians' president. "He has touched many, many lives of younger colleagues and shepherded us all. He's also a well-known researcher whom we look to for advances, and as a co-founder of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, he was instrumental in developing nuclear medicine into a medical specialty."

At the end of World War II, Bonte was a young physician fresh from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and a captain in the U.S. Army Air Corps, when his colonel assigned him to become the atomic survival officer. The Army's one-day course on the new and unknown field set him on a path that would make him a trailblazer over the next

(MORE)

## **RADIOLOGIST HONORED — 2**

five decades.

Bonte came to UT Southwestern in 1956 to establish the Department of Radiology. He chaired the department until 1973, when he became dean of Southwestern Medical School. In 1980 he stepped down as dean to become director of UT Southwestern's new Nuclear Medicine Center.

The center has specialized in imaging brain blood flow as a measure of regional physiologic activity in health and disease, utilizing single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT). The staff has developed new instrumentation and techniques and has been active in the training and development of young investigators in this growing field.

"I am honored to receive the American College of Nuclear Physicians' President's Award because it reflects the accomplishments and reputation for excellence of the entire Nuclear Medicine Center staff," said Bonte, the Dr. Jack Krohmer Professor in Radiation Physics.

The award was presented at the college's annual meeting. Brill, who trained as a nuclear medicine fellow under Bonte at UT Southwestern, served as the college's president while UT Southwestern's Dr. Michael Devous Sr. served as president of the specialty's principal scientific body, the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Devous is associate professor of radiology and associate director of UT Southwestern's Nuclear Medicine Center.

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