Stephen R. Thomas, PhD – Thoughtful Leader

Peter Sandwall1, Michaela Lamb2, Joshua Hessler2, Nathan Schneider2, Christopher Njeh2, & Kevin Little2
1OhioHealth, 2Ohio River Valley Chapter, American Association of Physicists in Medicine

Abstract

Dr. Stephen Russell Thomas, a respected leader in diagnostic and nuclear medicine physics. He is an eminent scientist, teacher, and committed volunteer. Dr. Thomas is known for his thoughtful approach to decision making and pioneering work in nuclear medicine and diagnostic medical physics. Some of his achievements include working with early gamma camera and tomographic scanners, development of coplanar quantitative imaging, and construction of the first magnetic resonance (MR) scanner in Cincinnati.

Dr. Thomas has received the highest awards in our profession, including the William D. Coolidge Award (Gold Medal) from the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), the Gold Medal from the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), and the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI): Loening-Berman Award for excellence in internal dosimetry.

Dr. Thomas is fondly remembered as an excellent instructor to radiology residents and a helpful advisor to physics and engineering graduate students. Known for his ability to bring diverse stakeholders together, Dr. Thomas’ professional society leadership roles include President of the Ohio River Valley Chapter of the AAPM (1986), AAPM (1997), and as Associate Executive Director (Medical Physics) for the American Board of Radiology (ABR) (2006-2011). Thoughtful and dedicated, Dr. Thomas exemplifies the foundations of character, “a good heart, kind feelings, and a keen mind.”

Origin & Family

Stephen Russell Thomas was born August 19, 1930, in a small town not far north of downtown Nashville, Tennessee.

Steve’s Salience was profound, a knack for science from an early age and an encouraging 6th grade science teacher, Mr. Doyle. Steve enjoyed and connected with the science teacher. His Senior year, the Ephs soccer team went undefeated to win the Sampson Cup for the second straight year. Indeed, the first team in the cup’s 28-year history (at that time, only 12 teams participated in the cup’s 28-year history) was the 1967/68 team.

Steve married the love of his life, Carol Joyce Dillard from West Lafayette, IN, after graduating from Purdue University in 1960. They raised their three children in Bloomfield, Connecticut, where they lived until the time of Steve’s death in 2010.

Dr. Thomas attended his first AAPM meeting in 1960 and attended all AAPM meetings ever since. He contributed to the field of radiation dosimetry and radiation protection. He has been involved in many committees and organizations.

Dr. Thomas’s scientific achievements and professional service have earned him respect and admiration from around the world. He was awarded the AAPM Gold Medal in 2012, the highest honor bestowed by the AAPM.

B.A. Physics (1963), Williams College

B.A. Physics (1963), Williams College

Williams, MA

with impressive skills and a knack for science from an early age, and an encouraging 6th grade science teacher, Mr. Doyle. Steve enjoyed and connected with the science teacher. His Senior year, the Ephs soccer team went undefeated to win the Sampson Cup for the second straight year. Indeed, the first team in the cup’s 28-year history (at that time, only 12 teams participated in the cup’s 28-year history) was the 1967/68 team.

Steve married the love of his life, Carol Joyce Dillard from West Lafayette, IN, after graduating from Purdue University in 1960. They raised their three children in Bloomfield, Connecticut, where they lived until the time of Steve’s death in 2010.

Dr. Thomas attended his first AAPM meeting in 1960 and attended all AAPM meetings ever since. He contributed to the field of radiation dosimetry and radiation protection. He has been involved in many committees and organizations.

Dr. Thomas’s scientific achievements and professional service have earned him respect and admiration from around the world. He was awarded the AAPM Gold Medal in 2012, the highest honor bestowed by the AAPM.

B.A. Physics (1963), Williams College

Williams, MA

Steve married the love of his life, Carol Joyce Dillard from West Lafayette, IN, after graduating from Purdue University in 1960. They raised their three children in Bloomfield, Connecticut, where they lived until the time of Steve’s death in 2010.

Dr. Thomas attended his first AAPM meeting in 1960 and attended all AAPM meetings ever since. He contributed to the field of radiation dosimetry and radiation protection. He has been involved in many committees and organizations.

Dr. Thomas’s scientific achievements and professional service have earned him respect and admiration from around the world. He was awarded the AAPM Gold Medal in 2012, the highest honor bestowed by the AAPM.

B.A. Physics (1963), Williams College

Williams, MA

Steve married the love of his life, Carol Joyce Dillard from West Lafayette, IN, after graduating from Purdue University in 1960. They raised their three children in Bloomfield, Connecticut, where they lived until the time of Steve’s death in 2010.

Dr. Thomas attended his first AAPM meeting in 1960 and attended all AAPM meetings ever since. He contributed to the field of radiation dosimetry and radiation protection. He has been involved in many committees and organizations.

Dr. Thomas’s scientific achievements and professional service have earned him respect and admiration from around the world. He was awarded the AAPM Gold Medal in 2012, the highest honor bestowed by the AAPM.

B.A. Physics (1963), Williams College

Williams, MA

Steve married the love of his life, Carol Joyce Dillard from West Lafayette, IN, after graduating from Purdue University in 1960. They raised their three children in Bloomfield, Connecticut, where they lived until the time of Steve’s death in 2010.

Dr. Thomas attended his first AAPM meeting in 1960 and attended all AAPM meetings ever since. He contributed to the field of radiation dosimetry and radiation protection. He has been involved in many committees and organizations.

Dr. Thomas’s scientific achievements and professional service have earned him respect and admiration from around the world. He was awarded the AAPM Gold Medal in 2012, the highest honor bestowed by the AAPM.