



June 13, 2019
By Stephen Balter

Charles E. Chambers, August 20, 1954 – June 9, 2019 In Memoriam



Charles E. Chambers, M.D. died suddenly on June 9, 2019 at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, where he had practiced as a dedicated interventional cardiologist for nearly 35 y. He was a zealous advocate for patient safety in the cardiac catheterization lab. He pursued this goal in an extremely wide range of local, national, and international forums.

Dr. Chambers obtained his undergraduate degree at St. Bonaventure, graduated from the University of Maryland Medical School, and trained in internal medicine and cardiology at the University of Vermont. He joined the staff of the Hershey Medical Center of the Penn State University College of Medicine in 1987 and served as the Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories from 1994, and as Professor of Medicine and Radiology from 2002. As well as being a leader in the technical aspects of interventional cardiology, Dr. Chambers is remembered fondly for his mentorship of cardiology fellows, his dedication to his patients, and his helpfulness to all. He was listed in the Northeast's region's tabulation of "The Best Doctors in America" from 1996 to the present.

Dr. Chambers' contributions to the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) were extensive and important. Over the course of more than 25 y, he served with distinction in many roles including as the Society's 38th president from 2014 to 2015. His other significant activities for SCAI included service as the Chairman of the Laboratory Performance Standards Committee, and the Catheterization Laboratory Survey program, and as SCAI representative to the National Quality Forum. He received the SCAI Mason Sones Distinguished Service award in 2006. In addition to his work with SCAI, Dr. Chambers was very active in the American College of Cardiology, where he served on the writing committee for numerous health care policy statements and expert consensus documents. Dr. Chambers' commitment to reducing the hazards and risks of interventional cardiology for both patients and workers is well-documented in his numerous chapters, publications, and presentations.

Dr. Chambers was a major scientific contributor to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) for more than a decade. He served as a Member of Council from 2007 to 2013 and continued as an active member of Program Area Committee 4 on radiation protection in medicine up to and including the 2019 annual meeting. He understood the conflicting requirements of technology and medical necessity and was able to communicate this to Council members and in NCRP reports. Dr. Chambers' experience and expertise as a practicing interventional cardiologist were essential to the writing of Report No. 168 (Radiation Dose Management for X-Ray Guided Interventional Medical Procedures), Statement No. 11 (Outline of Administrative Policies for Quality Assurance and Peer Review of Tissue Reactions Associated with Fluoroscopically Guided Interventions), and other NCRP documents. At the time of his death, Dr. Chambers was serving on NCRP Scientific Committee 4-9. He provided critical insights into the balance between patient benefits against patient and worker risks in fluoroscopically guided procedures.

Dr. Chambers was a compassionate physician, scientist, and human being. He was an excellent listener and communicator. He routinely used his own experiences to better meet the needs of his co-workers and patients. Charlie will be missed both professionally and personally.

Dr. Chambers enjoyed reading, refinishing furniture, restaurants along the water, and playing with his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 38 y, Linda Chambers, M.D.; his children Elizabeth, Thomas, and Anne; grandchildren Luke, Leah, and Thomas; and sisters Ginnie and Barbara.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Pennsylvania State University Health Department of Cardiology, 500 University Drive, Hershey, Pa. 17033.