Corning Benton, MD 1935—2013

**Bernadette L. Koch · Diane S. Babcock · Janet L. Strife ·
Lane F. Donnelly**

Received: 24 April 2013 / Accepted: 20 May 2013 / Published online: 20 June 2013
© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2013

Dr. Corning Benton was born in New Hampshire, where his father was a teacher at Phillips Exeter Academy. He graduated from Harvard University in 1955 and McGill University School of Medicine, in Montreal, in 1959. He did his first year of radiology residency at Baylor University in Texas and then transferred to the University of Cincinnati in Ohio, where he completed his radiology residency in 1965 under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Felson. Under Dr. Fred Silverman, he completed a pediatric radiology fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, joined the faculty, and for the next four decades was an outstanding clinician and educator.

Dr. Benton was an early pioneer in pediatric neuroradiology, at a time when pneumoencephalography, angiography and radiography were the primary modalities to evaluate intracranial structures. He contributed actively to patient care and

research, and was a gifted teacher to numerous technologists, medical students, residents, fellows and clinical colleagues. In 1973, he received the Golden Apple Award from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, which recognized him as best teacher. The annual Faculty Award for Excellence in Radiology Education is named for Dr. Benton, and the endowed Corning Benton Chair for Radiology Education provides ongoing support for the teaching and education activities that were so important to him.

At the age of 46 years, Dr. Benton was diagnosed with a progressive neuromuscular disorder; however, this did not deter him from pursuing life to its fullest. In 1990, only 5 years after Dr. Benton retired, he returned to Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center as an active contributor to the educational mission of the department. His incredible knowledge base and experience routinely helped the residents and faculty improve the care of patients. As professor emeritus he worked with trainees on multiple research projects, doing much of the labor-intensive work himself, and willingly shared in publishing the results. He met daily with the medical students and pediatric residents rotating in the Department of Radiology and provided an opportunity for them to evaluate imaging and fine-tune their observation skills. In addition, he built a massive database of temporal bone publications and established a series of case-based teaching files for pediatric house staff. He worked tirelessly to improve the radiology department's electronic teaching file. In 2005, the hospital honored him with the Unsung Heroes Award for his work in teaching. In 2006, Dr. Benton received the Singleton-Taybi Award from the Society for Pediatric Radiology in recognition of four decades as an outstanding clinician, colleague, friend and educator. The award recognized his extraordinary personal strengths, positive attitude and tenacity in meeting new challenges, and his many life-long accomplishments.

Dr. Benton had many hobbies and eclectic interests that he shared with his co-workers and friends. When he first

B. L. Koch (✉) · D. S. Babcock · J. L. Strife
Department of Radiology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical
Center, 3333 Burnet Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45229, USA
e-mail: Bernadette.Koch@cchmc.org

L. F. Donnelly
Department of Radiology, Nemours Children's Hospital,
Orlando, FL, USA

joined the hospital, he would bicycle 13 miles to the hospital each day, shower, and then start to work. Subsequently he could be seen speeding on his Harley-Davidson. He held a private and a commercial pilot license and had a strong interest in aviation. He liked living near the airport and used to identify the types of planes as they went over his home! One of his favorite places to take visitors was the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum, north of Cincinnati. He was a director of the YMCA, held an expert amateur radio license and was the recipient of the President's Cup Award in recognition of his boating abilities and knowledge. He promoted the New England chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society and always enjoyed his summers on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. Close friends were fortunate to be invited to share his island of paradise, which had limited electricity.

After retiring a second time, Dr. Benton was on the Board of Directors of the retirement home in which he lived with his beloved wife, Carol. He also continued his passion for teaching as a participant in the Council for Life-Long Engagement, a program dedicated to ending ageism. The program matches elders from local retirement communities with elementary and high school students to enrich the learning experience.

He always had a strong interest in and knowledge of nature and he had a life of continued learning. He embraced new challenges and had a generous spirit and an unparalleled passion for life. He was an inspirational resource to his friends and colleagues. In college, he climbed all 14,000-foot Colorado peaks and was an avid biker, yet later in life he never complained of the progressive neurological issues that limited his physical activity. Despite those limitations, his accomplishments are laudable for their extent, diversity, depth and degree of challenge. His mind was always active, looking for new ideas and adventures, and his quick wit and humor kept his friends and family alert! He had a great laugh, which you could hear at a distance, knowing that he was probably sharing an experience or a joke. His energetic spirit and his compassion for others were contagious, touching the lives of many. He was an inspirational resource to countless friends and colleagues. Dr. Corning Benton will be missed by many but will be fondly remembered by all who had the good fortune of getting to know him or work with him.

Corning is survived by his loving wife of many years, Carol, and his large family. He was the devoted father of Jeffrey, Lisa, Carol, Liz and Stacey, stepfather of Kay, Ray and Gayle, and grandfather of 14.