Catherine A. Poole (1933–2014)

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A tribute from a colleague

For all of us who knew her, we were greatly saddened by the passing of Catherine A. Poole, MD, who died peacefully at her home in West Chester, PA, on Feb. 28, 2014. Catherine spent her career as a pediatric radiologist and, later, as chair of Radiology at the University of Miami School of Medicine. She leaves behind a host of former colleagues, fellows, residents and students who were enriched by her many years of counsel, research and teaching.

She was born and raised in Idaho and received her medical degree from the University of Oregon School of Medicine in 1958. In 1963, she completed her radiology residency at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center. She then completed pediatric radiology fellowship training in 1964 after rotations through Miami Children's Hospital, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children (Philadelphia), Children's Hospital Medical Center (Boston) and Cincinnati Children's Hospital. She then joined the University of Miami faculty and became the first pediatric radiologist practicing at Jackson Memorial Hospital, where she carried that responsibility alone for 10 years until taking her first associate in 1974.

In 1977, Catherine was selected to be chair of the Department of Radiology, an academic distinction that only a few women had achieved at the time. She presided over the department during that unparalleled period of rapid development of radiologic technologies and was instrumental in bringing the latest equipment to both Jackson Memorial Hospital and the university's private facilities. She stepped down as chair in 1992 and returned to daily teaching responsibilities until her retirement in 1996. The residents were fortunate to have daily exposure to her expertise during the final 4 years of her tenure.

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She was a member of many radiologic societies, including the Society for Pediatric Radiology, the Radiological Society of North America, the American Roentgen Ray Society and the American College of Radiology. In 1976 she was honored to be elected a fellow of the American College of Radiology. Her research, journal articles and scientific presentations were extensive and covered most areas of pediatric radiology.

But what will always stand out to many of us was her amazing ability as a clinical pediatric radiologist. Her knowledge in all areas was extensive, but it was truly encyclopedic in the realm of congenital heart disease. At a time when the chest radiograph was much more critical in the timely diagnosis and management of patients with heart disease, Catherine was usually quite accurate in her assessment. Reviewing cases with her was both fun and informative. The only time you might think you were in trouble while discussing a case with her was when she would tilt her head downward and peer at you over the top of those half-rim glasses. That was the time you might want to reconsider the direction in which you were headed. And she would occasionally show her whimsical side. Every so often she would show a chest radiograph of her beloved German shepherd Kristen, presenting it to a resident as an unknown dysplasia. But she would never allow you to flounder for too long.

We will always be grateful for the time she devoted to the University of Miami and for the many people she touched over the years. Speaking for myself, residents continue to be

influenced by her because of my frequent allusions to concepts and pearls that Dr. Poole imparted to me over the years.

George Abdenour

A tribute to her legacy

It was very saddening to hear the news of Dr. Catherine Poole's recent passing. To be honest, I never met her. But I feel I knew more than enough about her from many of the radiologists in our department who were fortunate to know her, particularly my colleague Dr. George Abdenour. What I learned was that she was not only a very compassionate, caring and easy-going person, she was also an excellent pediatric radiologist. She was one of the first women to chair a radiology department in the country.

She was also an excellent teacher, influencing the education of many medical students, residents, fellows and her radiology colleagues. Although she had long retired and was no longer in the department, we continued to learn from her. Not a single day went by when radiology residents (me included) did not get to hear of one of Dr. Poole's famous radiology pearls from Dr. Abdenour.

For those who knew her more intimately, she will be dearly missed.

Gaurav Saigal