Robert A. Zimmerman, MD (1938–2021)

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Received: 12 May 2021 / Revised: 12 May 2021 / Accepted: 1 June 2021 / Published online: 18 June 2021
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Robert A. Zimmerman, MD, a prominent figure in the field of pediatric neuroradiology, passed away on Feb. 23, 2021, at 82 years of age.

Dr. Zimmerman was born June 20, 1938, in Philadelphia, PA. He was a Philadelphian through and through, attending Central High School as well as Temple University, where he received his bachelor's degree in biology. Dr. Zimmerman graduated with his medical degree from Georgetown University in Washington,

DC, and returned to Philadelphia to complete a diagnostic radiology residency and a fellowship in special procedures at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

After finishing his training, Dr. Zimmerman served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1972. He returned to Philadelphia, joining the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania as an assistant professor of radiology in 1972. He worked as a neuroradiologist for 15 years at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, moving up the ranks to full professor in 1981. Dr. Zimmerman founded the Neuroradiology section at the hospital and began his extensive leadership experience as its chief. After serving in this position for 6 years, he continued as co-chief for an additional 2 years.

As his illustrious career continued, he focused on pediatric neuroradiology, establishing the Division of Neuroradiology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 1988. Under his supervision, the division grew to one of the largest pediatric neuroradiology divisions in the United States. Under his leadership, diagnostic capabilities and volumes were greatly expanded over the years, particularly new applications of MRI, including many advanced neuroimaging techniques.

Dr. Zimmerman trained countless physicians in pediatric neuroradiology, many of whom have gone on to become leaders in the field. He contributed to hundreds of publications, received numerous awards and recognitions, served on many society committees, and regularly shared his knowledge by lecturing nationally and internationally. He was a past president of the American Society of Pediatric Neuroradiology and was honored with the society's Special Achievement Award. To honor his vital contributions to pediatric neuroradiology at Children's

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Hospital of Philadelphia, the Robert A. Zimmerman Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neuroradiology was established upon his retirement in 2018.

Dr. Zimmerman is survived by Dianne, his wife of more than 60 years. Together they had two daughters, Rachel and Sara, whom they raised in the University City section of Philadelphia. Dr. Zimmerman loved spending time with his two grandchildren, Sasha and Ivan. He was a passionate world-traveler and gardener, never failing to share the fruits (and vegetables!) of his labors.

Dr. Zimmerman's extraordinary impact was truly profound. He will be remembered as an honest and caring colleague and an important pioneer in advancing clinical and

research innovations in pediatric neuroradiology. Our colleagues in the Department of Radiology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia will continue to honor his legacy for years to come.

Declarations

Conflicts of interest None

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