A memorial tribute to Michael Freeman, FRCP(C), FACC

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The nuclear cardiology community is saddened by the loss of Dr. Michael Freeman. Michael passed away unexpectedly on September 3, 2017 while camping in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, enjoying the beauty of the great outdoors with his family and friends.

Michael was born on December 29, 1948 in Windsor, Ontario. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Windsor and then completed his medical degree at Queens University in 1974. Michael was a cardiology fellow at the University of Toronto and subsequently spent two years as a nuclear cardiology research fellow at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He established one of the first Nuclear Cardiology labs in Canada, joining as faculty at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto in 1980. At the time of his passing, he was the Medical Director of the Heart and Vascular Program, Director of Medical Informatics, and Director of Nuclear Cardiology at St. Michael's. He was also a member of the Royal College's Cardiology Examination Board.

To the world of nuclear cardiology, he has left a tremendous legacy of accomplishment. He published

more than 50 articles during his career. These articles have helped to validate new procedures and establish benchmarks for quality nuclear imaging. This work is further reflected in his contributions to ASNC guidelines that are the standard for laboratories around the world.

ASNC owes its successes to the hard work of those members who volunteer their time and efforts to advance the mission of the society. Joining ASNC on June 9, 1993, Michael was a founding member of our society who helped to contribute to that mission. Together with the other founding members, Michael brought substance to a vision of a society dedicated to supporting education, innovation, and quality in nuclear cardiology with the clear goal of improving patient care. He continued to make important contributions to ASNC as a member of the Education Committee, the Annual Meeting Program Committee, the Membership Relations Committee, and the International Advisory Committee. Michael was a member of the ASNC Board of Directors from 2009 to 2011.

More importantly, Michael was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He and his wife of 45 years, Sharon, have three children, Janis, Katherine, and Jonathan and his wife Becky. He was a proud grandfather to Samuel, Charlie, and Lucas. He shared his love of travel with his family as well as his passion for sports. He was an ardent fan of the Toronto Blue Jays, the Toronto Raptors, and the Detroit Lions. He had a strong faith in Christ and served in many leadership positions in the church, including Chairman of the Elders at Bayview Glen Church in Thornhill, Ontario. The thoughts and prayers of the ASNC Board of Directors, Executive Council, and ASNC staff are with his family and friends.

Among the many expressions of surprise, grief, and loss expressed to me by ANSC members, what comes through most often are reflections of what a gentleman Michael was, best summed up by ASNC past-president Dr. Robert Hendel, who called Michael a "gentle soul who will be missed". Michael will indeed be missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and patients.

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