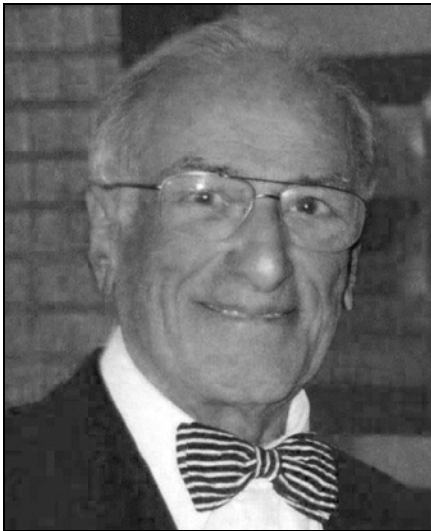


Memorial—Hooshang Taybi



Hooshang Taybi, 1919–2006

...his greatest gift was how much he inspired others to recognize the value of scholarship, integrity, friendship, and compassion.

Hooshang Taybi, a world-renowned pediatric radiologist and treasured friend and colleague, died at his home in Walnut Creek, California, on August 7, 2006. Dr. Taybi was born on October 22, 1919, in Malayer, Iran. After graduating from Teheran University School of Medicine in 1944, he took an interesting and circuitous route to become one of the most well-respected and accomplished pediatric radiologists in the world.

Those who knew him were impressed by his encyclopedic memory and his ability to recall articles, authors, and page numbers from the 100 journals he read regularly. They were also impressed by his major contribution to pediatric radiology, the book, *Radiology of Syndromes*.

Those of us who knew him well recognize that Hoosh was much more than the sum total of his awards and accomplishments. It is safe to say that his passion for learning and teaching; his warmth and kindness to patients, staff, and colleagues; his integrity; and his generosity never ceased to amaze us. He was truly inspirational to the many people he touched throughout his life.

Dr. Taybi arrived in the United States in December 1948, intent on receiving specialty

training in pediatrics. To complete his pediatric residency, he went to Akron Children's Hospital. It was there that he met a nurse, Alice Baum, who was working with children afflicted with polio. He and Alice later married, and they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

The radiologists in Akron recognized his keen intellect and powers of observation and convinced him to be trained in pediatric radiology with Fred Silverman in Cincinnati. Dr. Taybi's relationship with Dr. Silverman as student and teacher, and later as colleagues and friends, had a profound impact on his life and career.

Hoosh had found his calling and was determined to excel. After completing his radiology board requirements in New York, he accepted pediatric radiology positions in Oklahoma, Indiana, and San Francisco. In 1967, he was hired as the director of radiology at Children's Hospital Oakland (CHO), where he spent the majority of his illustrious career. He continued as director until 1986 and worked part time at CHO until 1990. For many years, beginning in 1964, he had been an active clinical professor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). From 1987 to 1994, he served as a part-time attending pediatric radiologist at UCSF.

The well-deserved honors and awards he received are impressive. Most noteworthy are the major awards that signify the magnitude of his accomplishments: president of the Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR) from 1973 to 1974; Gold Medal from the SPR in 1993 (the most distinguished honor to be bestowed upon a pediatric radiologist "who has contributed greatly to the subspecialty of pediatric radiology as a scientist, teacher, personal mentor, and leader"); and the Bronze Bambino Award from Children's Hospital Oakland for his many years of devoted service. He is credited with describing three syndromes that bear his name. He was a founding member of the Pacific Coast Pediatric Radiology Association, a long-term member of the John Caffey Society, and an honorary member of several international radiological societies. He published many original and review articles in the medical literature and lectured extensively around the world.

Dr. Taybi's greatest academic contribution, however, is the book *Radiology of Syndromes*,

first published in 1975. The later editions were written with his friend and colleague, Dr. Ralph Lachman, as coauthor and are now titled *Radiology of Syndromes, Metabolic Disorders, and Skeletal Dysplasias*. This book is considered the most useful reference in pediatric radiology throughout the world and was the result of Dr. Taybi's dedication and determination to contribute something important for the diagnosis and treatment of children. An editorial comment by Walter Berdon in 1993 states, "The pediatric radiologic world surely could never have functioned without this remarkable physician. His syndrome book, soon to be in its fourth edition, is an unbelievable creation."

In 1990, the Hooshang Taybi Honorary Lectureship was created at CHO. For the past 16 years, distinguished speakers have paid tribute to Dr. Taybi by continuing his tradition of teaching.

After retirement from medical practice in 1994, Hoosh directed his energy and talents to numerous hobbies. He learned to sew and subsequently made many gifts for friends and colleagues as well as clothing for underprivileged children. After learning the art of jewelry making, he fashioned the ceremonial presidential chains for the SPR and the European Society for Pediatric Radiology. Many other projects, including ceramics, painting, and poetry, occupied his time over the past several years, most often as gifts for others. He also donated some of his artwork to the SPR auction to raise money for his beloved society. He always felt that "It is better to give than to receive" and proved it many times over. He gave generously to the SPR and to the Children's Hospital Oakland Foundation.

Hoosh was also the most grateful person any of us has ever met. He was always deeply moved by the recognition afforded him by his friends and colleagues around the world. He wrote his autobiography a few years ago, at the request of a nephew in Iran. Shortly thereafter, he translated his book into English. He begins with a brief history of Persia (now Iran) and then goes on to discuss his family tree. There are many fascinating stories from his childhood and early medical career (of course, Hoosh remembered every detail from those events of 60–80 years ago). Because his father was a physician in the public health service, his

family lived in many regions of Iran, often living and working in primitive conditions. He spoke of his loving parents, particularly his dedicated, hard-working father, and influential teachers and colleagues from his youth, which helps to explain the loving husband and father and dedicated physician he became.

Soon after medical school, Dr. Taybi developed a bloody cough and was diagnosed fluoroscopically with tuberculosis. He then spent approximately 1 year in a TB sanatorium. While a patient, he was asked to assist in providing medical care because he was much less ill than many other patients. He also quoted a Persian poem that inspired him at that time; "The best way to show your gratitude for having a strong arm is to extend a helping hand to the weak."

Hoosh's sincere gratitude to others is also reflected in his own statement in *Who's Who in America*, "Thank you, America and Americans, for giving me the opportunity to reach my goals. Inspiring teachers and challenging students have contributed to a very rewarding professional life for me. I am most grateful."

There is no doubt—Hooshang Taybi will always be a legend in the field of pediatric radiology. He loved to give gifts; however, in our opinion, his greatest gift was how much he inspired others to recognize the value of scholarship, integrity, friendship, and compassion. We will miss him greatly and will remember him forever.

Hooshang Taybi is survived by his devoted wife, Alice, and his two sons, Paul and Claude.

At Dr. Taybi's request, his ashes will be scattered at sea in the presence of his loving family.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that any contributions in Dr. Taybi's memory be made to the Society for Pediatric Radiology, c/o Jennifer Boylan, 1891 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 20191 or Children's Hospital and Research Center Foundation, 747 52nd Street, Oakland, CA 94609.

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