



In Memoriam: Robert E. O'Mara, MD, 1933–2015

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Robert E. O'Mara, MD, 1933–2015

Robert E. O'Mara, MD, former chair of radiology and chief of nuclear medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC), died on April 26 at his home in Tucson, AZ.

O'Mara was born in Flushing, NY, and in 1955 graduated from the University of Rochester, where he was part of the school's undefeated 1952 football team. He received his medical degree from the Albany (NY) College of Medicine in 1959 and served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1960 to 1963. He completed residencies in surgery at Rochester General Hospital and in radiology at St. Vincent's Hospital (New York, NY), followed by a fellowship in nuclear medicine at the State University of New York Upstate Medical Center (Syracuse).

He served on the faculty at Upstate Medical Center and published several early papers in partnership with John G. McAfee, MD. He also served on the faculty at the University of Arizona College of Medicine



Robert E. O'Mara, MD

(Tucson) before returning to URMC in 1975. At URMC he served as director of nuclear medicine through 1988 and as chair of the department of radiology from 1987 to 1991.

Dr. O'Mara published more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific papers across a broad spectrum of radionuclide imaging and therapy. His earliest such paper, on hepatic "scintiscanning," was published in 1967. He led a number of studies on bone scanning and, later in his career, focused more closely on nuclear medicine applications in thyroid cancer. He retired in 1999 and moved to Tucson, where he practiced part-time at the University of Arizona until 2006.

"Dr. O'Mara was an excellent physician, teacher, and scholar," said David Waldman, MD, PhD, chair of Imaging Sciences at URMC, in a published university tribute. "He made a tremendous impact on so many people's lives." A celebration of Dr. O'Mara's life was held on May 4 in Tucson. He is survived by Brenda O'Mara, his wife of 51 years, 3 children, and 2 grandchildren.