

2015 Ulrich Henschke Award Recipient

Bruce Thomadsen, Ph.D., DABR, DABHP, DABMP, FAAPM

Bruce Thomadsen began his practice of medical physics unexpectedly in 1970, having not heard of the field two weeks before. After a residency at Henry Ford Hospital, working at Hurley Hospital in Flint and stint as the Chief Medical Physicist at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, NJ, he settled into the University of Wisconsin, where he remained for forty years (so far).

Early on in the UW Radiotherapy Clinic, Don Talbert, the head of radiotherapy physics at the time, assigned Bruce, the junior member of the team, brachytherapy physics because no one else wanted it, as well as responsibility for quality assurance (QA) and regulatory compliance. Brachytherapy QA did not exist at that time. Thus began a career dedicated to these specialties. In 1988, Dolores Buchler, a physician boarded in gynecology, surgery and radiation oncology, was interested in developing a high-dose-rate brachytherapy program at Wisconsin, which opened new challenges and provided new toys. In 2012, Dr. Thomadsen left his clinical practice, focusing then exclusively on research and teaching.

Bruce has served the radiological community through participation in many committees for various societies. For the ABS, he has served as the Treasurer, chair of the Physics Committee and Physics Section Editor for the journal. Dr. Thomadsen sits on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Committee for Medical Uses of Isotopes as its chair, the first non-physician to service in that capacity.

Several mentors helped to shape Bruce's career: Lucille DuSault, who taught him that the patient comes first; John Cameron, who taught him how to write; Bhudatt Paliwal who taught him to build bridges; and Jeff Williamson, who shared the unfolding world of brachytherapy. The support of his family has been essential: his wife, Louise, and children and grandchildren.



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