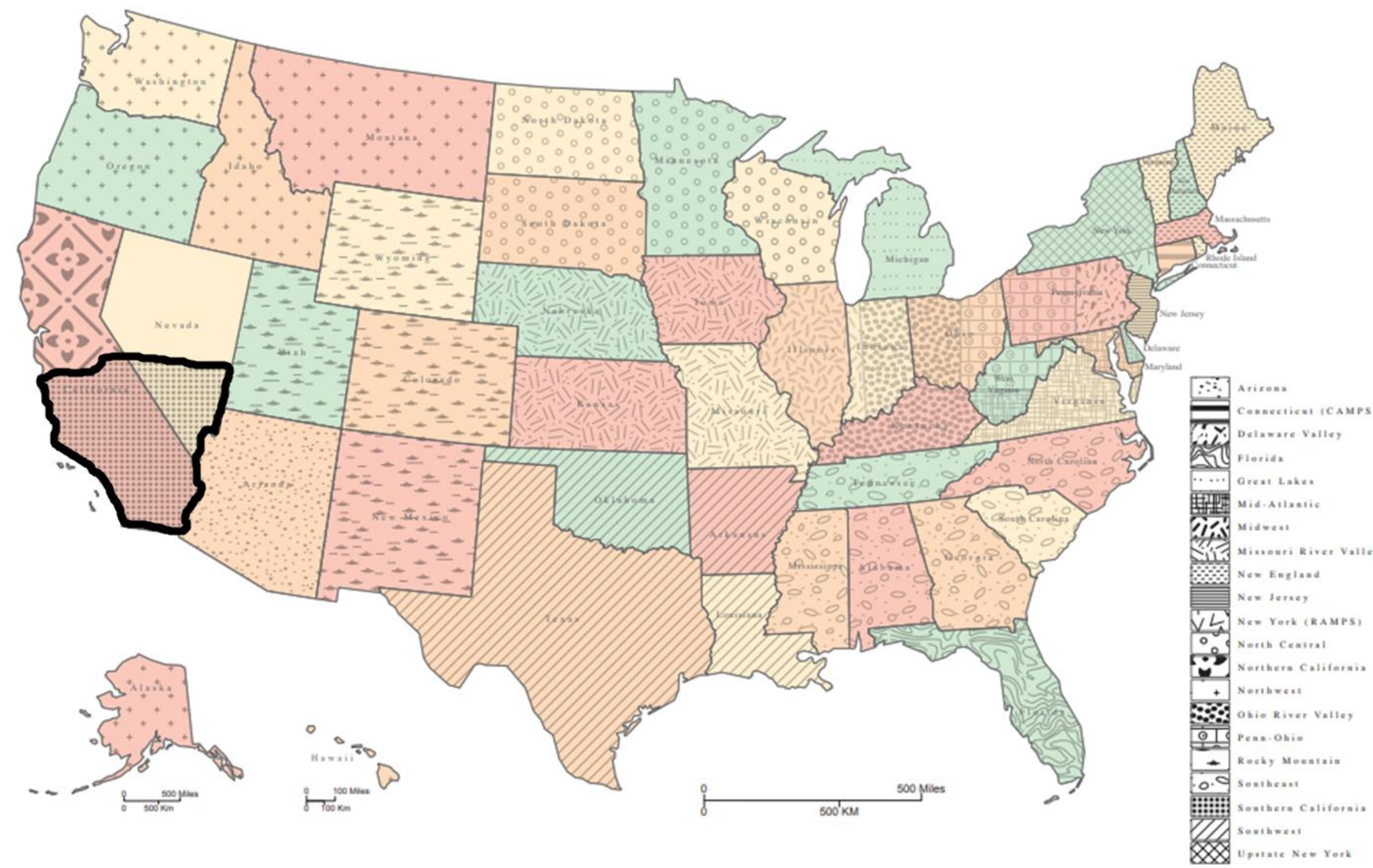


# History of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine Southern California Chapter

Steven Goetsch, Sharon Qi, Varun Sehgal, Jessica Clements, Margaret Barker, Julie Shen



The Southern California Chapter of the AAPM (AAPM-SCC) represents over 280 medical physicists from the regions of southern California and southern Nevada. Until 2010, southwestern Arizona was also part of our chapter. AAPM-SCC was founded in 1970 by, among others, Norman A. Baily, Jerald W. Hilbert, John Schaefflein, and Ralph Worsnop. One of their first major tasks was local arrangements for the Annual National Meeting in San Diego in 1973. Since then, we have hosted national meetings in 1994 (Anaheim), 2003 (San Diego), and 2009 (Anaheim) with a future meeting to be held in Los Angeles (2024).

## Chapter Meetings

Our chapter has historically had from two to three dinner meetings per year. The format consists of a board meeting in the afternoon, followed by dinner and a short presentation by invited guest speaker(s). We used to have an annual dinner meeting co-hosted by the Los Angeles chapter of the Health Physics Society which was always held at Les Freres Taix Restaurant in downtown Los Angeles, CA. Other meeting locations of note were held at Knott's Berry Farm, and Anderson's Pea Soup Restaurant in Carlsbad, CA. More recently, chapter meetings have been held at local universities, alternating between UCLA, UC Irvine, and UC San Diego.

## Mid-Winter Workshops

Early in the history of the chapter, we joined with the Los Angeles Radiological Society (LARS) to attend the Mid-Winter Conventions where we held the educational seminars. Our Mid-Winter Workshops started in 1985 and were held around the same time as LARS. Since 2002, however, Steven Goetsch has organized the January workshops which are primarily held at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City on the top floor overlooking the San Fernando Valley. These seminars attract speakers from all over the United States. The most recent workshop in 2020 included cutting-edge topics such as BGRT, MRI linacs, and Knowledge-Based Planning. Dr. Jerry White of the AAPM Ethics Committee presented on the updated AAPM Code of Ethics. However, in 2020, we were moved to the grand ballroom in the Sheraton as they were filming for a reality dog grooming competition! We took it in stride, and even managed to get some paw-tographs.

## AAPM-SCC Educational Seminars (Norm Baily Awards)

The Norman A. Baily Student Research Award is presented in his memory to outstanding medical physics students and post-docs at our spring dinner meeting. In 2010, the awards were expanded to three graduate student winners and three post-doc winners. Held concurrently is the AAPM MedPhys SLAM competition. Postponed in 2020, the second annual 2019 SLAM winner is Ricardo Rademacher, Ph.D. with his talk titled "We Wouldn't Spray Paint the Mona Lisa, So Why Do We Spray Paint Our Patients?" Dr. Rademacher would go on to win first place at the AAPM National Meeting MedPhys SLAM competition.

## Founders of the AAPM-SCC

John Schaefflein  
Jim McIlraith  
Charles Sondhaus  
Ralph Worsnop  
Ralph Haymond  
Moses Greenfield  
Norm Baily  
Jerald Hilbert  
Amos Norman  
John Steigerwalt  
Calvin Rainbolt  
Myron Wollin  
Philip Rummerfield

## Executive Board of AAPM-SCC 2021

Board Member/ Chapter Representative	X. Sharon Qi, Ph.D.
Past President	Mike Campbell, M.S.
President	Varun Sehgal, Ph.D.
President-Elect	Jessica Clements, M.S.
Secretary	Margaret Barker, M.S.
Treasurer	Zhilei Julie Shen, Ph.D.
Webmaster	Nzhde Agazaryan, Ph.D.
Educational Co-chair	Steven Goetsch, Ph.D.
Educational Co-chair	Marianne Plunkett, M.S.
Regulatory Chair	Melissa Martin, M.S.

Norman A. Baily (1915 – 1992) was a pioneer in medical physics, an individual who helped define the profession and was equally adept in nuclear medicine, radiation oncology, and diagnostic imaging. Along the way he made many important research contributions to all three areas. Dr. Baily obtained his Ph.D. in Physics at Columbia University in 1952. In 1968 he assumed the position of professor of Radiology and Chief of the Division of Radiological Physics and Engineering in the new medical school developing at the University of California, San Diego. He remained with UCSD until his death in 1992, becoming *emeritus* in 1988.

Norman Baily was a highly creative person with a real gift for identifying important research problems and finding practical solutions to them. His research was prolific and did not dim with the passing years. In fact, his last paper appeared in *Medical Physics* in the May/June 1992 edition. It was entitled, "A Review of the Process by which Ultrasound is Generated through the Interaction of Ionizing Radiation and Irradiated Materials: Some Possible Applications." This was the lead article in the publication accompanying the meeting of the AAPM and Canadian colleagues in Calgary, Canada in August of 1992. In the course of his career he made seminal contributions to a number of areas that may stand as landmarks in the field. This is particularly true of the work that he did on the medical utilization of semiconductor detectors for dosimetry and his work on the theoretical and experimental development of micro dosimetry. Along the way however, he also made pioneering contributions to the fields of digital radiography, tomography, and radiation acoustics.

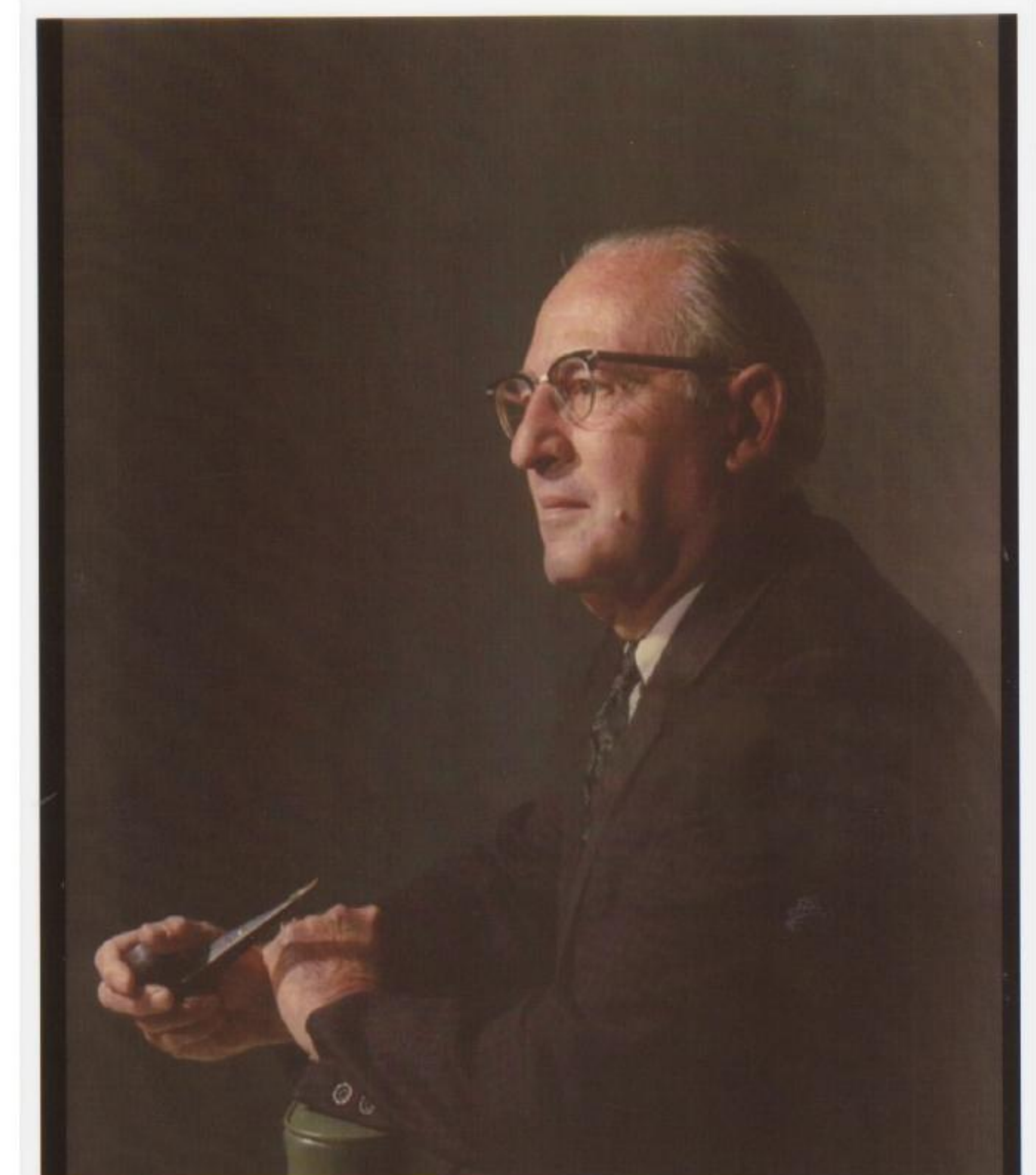
Despite the pressures of his various research endeavors and the obligations of a multitude of professional committees, he always found time to teach his postdoctoral candidates, graduate students, and residents in Radiology. He was endowed with a superb intellect and seemed always to be surprised when others had difficulty in following him in a complicated exposition. He was generous of his time and talent. In addition to his multiple committee obligations, he was an associate editor of *Medical Physics*, but most of all he was a devoted supporter of the Southern California Chapter of the AAPM. In 1986, in appreciation of his service to our organization and in the spirit of acknowledging young scientists in southern California, the AAPM-SCC created the annual Norm Baily award.

*"I knew Norm as a senior colleague at UCSD. Since my research ideas required for realization more expertise in electronics and physics than I had mastered, I often turned to him for help and advice. I learned not to rely on his off-the-cuff response but to give his answer time for gestation; then he would produce a thoughtful, insightful, and genuinely helpful solution. So it was that he was most creative in a private and painstaking way; the quick repartee of today's teaching was not his style. Unassuming, he was not an empire builder, and his originality and the extent of his contributions to medical physics were not appreciated by most of his colleagues or the residents. It is an unfortunate aspect of scientific competition that resources and acclaim do not necessarily accrue to the most meritorious people or ideas. His standards, however, always remained high, and he will be remembered for his selflessness and integrity."*

---Paul J. Friedman



2019 Norm Baily award winners: John Ginn (UCLA), Ryan Neph (UCLA), Education Director Steve Goetsch, Ricardo Rademacher (Genesis Health) and Kristin McConnell (UCSD)



DR. NORMAN BAILY