IN MEMORIAM

John Alexander Reid, November 29, 1924–March 29, 2011

On March 29, 2011, Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology lost one of its finest gentlemen. John Reid was of the old school. He grew into radiology, and grew in radiology. John was of an era when specialty programs in what would become oral and maxillofacial radiology did not exist in most places, and the early oral and maxillofacial radiologists had to learn on their own. John was such a man. Born in Wallaceburg, Ontario, Canada, in 1924, he graduated from Wallaceburg Secondary School and then studied at the University of Toronto in 1947. John was in general practice from 1947 to 1968, when he was appointed an instructor at the then relatively new faculty of dentistry at the University of Western Ontario (UWO), in London, Ontario. He became a clinical assistant professor in 1968, assistant professor in 1969, and, when Douglas Stoneman left UWO to become the director of the Oral Radiology Graduate Program at the University of Toronto, he became the chair of the Division of Dental Radiology in 1970. In 1970, he was promoted to associate professor, and in 1981 was promoted to professor. In 1972, Axel Ruprecht joined the Division. In the next year, the Division name was changed to Oral Radiology, and John and Axel, together with Tom Batten, the chief tech in Oral Radiology opened their part-practice, Oral Radiology Consultants. John became recognized, informally, as a good oral radiologist by his peers. He gave more than 25 presentations on various aspects of radiology, from protection to interpretation, and was a consultant to and member of various committees of the Ontario Dental Association, Health and Welfare Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Health, and the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario. John also became an active researcher, and was the coinvestigator on 8 research grant projects. He was the author or coauthor of 54 journal articles (32 of them with Axel Ruprecht). Axel recalls that the 3 years he spent at UWO with John were very productive and extremely collegial. Axel and John learned from each other, consulted with each other often, and genuinely liked each other. John showed Axel, the young academic, how to negotiate the politics of a university. On one occasion when Oral Radiology needed to have a policy change, but John knew that the administrator in charge of this area was likely not to want make such a change, he and Axel went to this individual and put the problem to him and suggested several ways they might deal with it, all not good, but pointing to an obvious alternative that was not mentioned. Finally, the other person asked why not do it that way. John acted surprised that he had not thought of it and asked, “But can you do that?” The other person replied, “Certainly.” It was hard not to laugh. John was also an ardent supporter of Oral Radiology’s rightful place as a full and equal academic discipline, which some other specialties did not believe. One day, at a meeting with another department, discussing radiology protocols, the department chair said, “I have always thought of radiology as a service area.” Axel knew that the detonate button had just been pushed. Out of the corner of his eye he saw John launch himself from his
chair like a ballistic missile across the table into the chairman’s face and tell him to never, ever say that again. He did not.

John was recognized for his talents. He was a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, a fellow of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, and certified by the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario as an oral and maxillofacial radiologist.

He was a member of many professional organizations, including the Canadian Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, the International Association of Dento-Maxillo-Facial Radiology, and the Ontario Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology. He was a past president of the Canadian Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology.

John was also a family man. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Barbara Arlene (Thomson), and is survived by Marilyn Reid and her husband Adrian Brennan of London, Susan Belton and her husband Dr. Robert Belton of Kelowna, BC, and Sandra Reid of Edmonton, Alberta, and his grandsons Sean and Alex Reid Bradley. John was proud of his family and often spoke fondly to Axel of his daughters and their activities. John will be missed by those who knew him and whose lives he touched.

Submitted on behalf of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology by Dr. Axel Ruprecht.