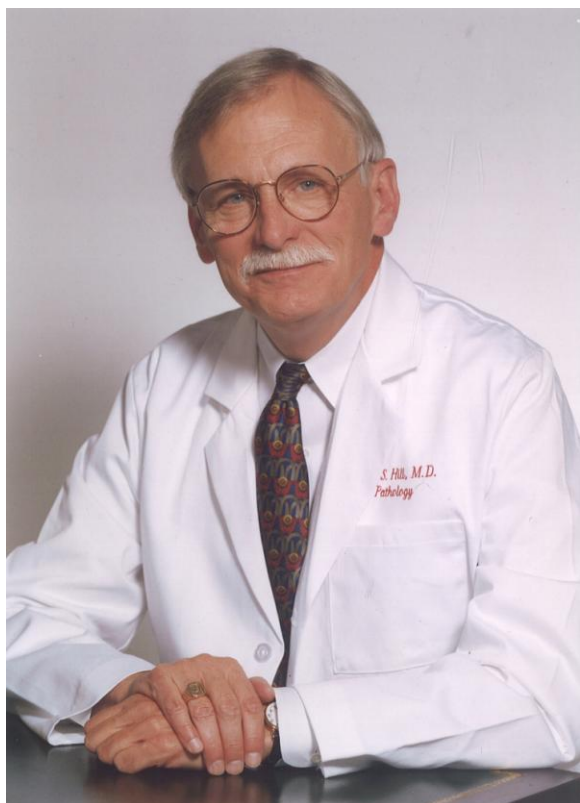


Gary Hill- In remembrance and celebration- 2013



Gary Hill was raised in the small town of Shamrock, Texas. Shamrock was at the edge of the dust bowl, in a time when everyone was feeling the effects of the depression. His mother, in particular, was very ambitious and tres formidable. He lived a rural life in this small town, doing well in school. He went on to receive his undergraduate degree from Rice University, and finally left Texas to attend Johns Hopkins Medical School. However, he returned often to Shamrock for annual high school reunions, usually winning the prize for travelling the farthest to attend!

As a medical student, he went to work in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Heptinstall, and thus began a life-long relationship and special friendship between the two. Gary proved to be an eager, able and innovative investigator, working on studies of hypertension, atherosclerosis, and CKD. He became interested in Pathology, and did his residency training at Johns Hopkins in Pathology. He focused on Renal Pathology, and the new discipline of

interpretation of renal biopsies, bridging from the first generation of renal pathologists. Some of his early work was done in collaboration with French investigators, and he remained a Francophile (and Francophone) throughout his life. He spent a few years in Philadelphia, and returned to Baltimore to the Bayview medical campus, where he directed the Department of Pathology for 18 years, doing renal and surgical pathology. He became a recognized expert in HTN, CKD, and in lupus nephritis, publishing important papers in the field.

During his early years in Baltimore, he met and married Martha Norton, a vivacious young woman whom he met through a mutual friend. For their honeymoon, they went to Cambridge, where Gary received a young investigator award! Gary supported Martha as she pursued a doctorate in Nursing. Martha subsequently went on to become president of the American Heart Association, the first (and I believe only) non-MD to serve in that position. She also became the first Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, and is only now stepping down from that position. As Gary supported her in her decision to pursue her career goals, so Martha supported Gary when he decided in the late 1990's to leave administrative duties behind, and go to France to focus on his first love, research. His subsequent years in Paris proved to be very productive. His research interests continued to expand, from native kidneys into kidney transplant vasculopathy. Gary was an early member of the Renal Pathology Society, and became one of the major figures in the field; a few years ago, he was awarded the Jacob Churg award in recognition of his contributions to the field of renal pathology.

In addition to being a superb diagnostician and researcher, Gary was a very talented teacher. He was very charismatic, and used anecdotes and humor to make his lectures accessible and enjoyable. Even after going to France, he would

return each year in the fall for medical student teaching in the renal section. He went out of his way to find out about the students in his assigned small group, surprising them by knowing not only their names, but where they were from and where they went to undergraduate school. He had a wealth of teaching materials to supplement the existing curriculum, and was always ready to provide extra review sessions. There were many enthusiastic student comments about his teaching every year, and it remained a passion for him. He was a research mentor for many young investigators. He also published a French/ English medical dictionary, an amazing educational undertaking.

Gary was passionate about many things. His long relationship with Martha was a blessing, and they have two beloved sons. His son Justin spoke at his memorial service, saying that he suspected his father would have liked them to follow in his footsteps, but was happy for them in their careers – Justin pointed out that he is an educator, so in that sense did indeed follow in his father’s footsteps. Gary also has a step-grandson whom he doted on. And let us not forget his legions of friends throughout the world. Dr. Heptinstall in his eulogy said that Gary was just fun to be with, a great raconteur with a wealth of stories suitable for any audience, and a great sense of humor. Reflecting the range of his own life, from small town to the world’s most cosmopolitan city, Gary was comfortable talking to people from many walks of life. He was always very generous to the poor. He loved the arts, film, photography, architecture, music and the piano, and of course good food and good drink! He loved hosting his many friends when they visited Paris, and spending time with Martha on the Eastern shore and in Mexico. And of course we can’t forget his birds, which he kept in his office and then in his Paris apartment!

By late summer of 2012, during imaging studies of the heart, a scar carcinoma was incidentally detected in his lung, and the tumor had spread. We became aware of this when he contacted us to tell

us that he would not be available for teaching in the fall. He returned to Baltimore full-time, for treatment, and was very open about his condition, continuing to see friends and colleagues. Between bouts of chemotherapy, he and Martha continued to travel, visiting France in late fall. He was also able to attend the ASN in the fall, where he saw many of his friends and colleagues. They visited friends in Naples, and four days before his death, they returned from a holiday at a favorite resort in Mexico. The day before he died, he sent in his money to the RPS planning to attend the USCAP and the RPS dinner, and I’m sure intended to be at USCAP meeting with us. But he is here in spirit. He truly led a remarkable life. As his son Justin said at his memorial service, “Rest in peace, Dad, you earned it”.

Gary’s widow Martha sends her regards to their many friends in the renal pathology community, and encourages people to get in touch, mhill1@jhu.edu. She has asked that any memorial donations in Gary’s name be made to the Johns Hopkins Pathology/ Pathophysiology fund – details will be on the RPS web-site.

