Lee B. Talner, MD, is a well-deserved recipient of the 2010 APDR Achievement Award. His lifelong dedication to radiology has resulted in major contributions to radiology education, research, and leadership. He has been a tremendous mentor to medical students, radiology residents, and faculty throughout his career and continues to provide mentorship, both in radiology and community service activities, during his retirement.

Dr Talner was born in New Rochelle, New York. He completed his undergraduate degree at Amherst College (1959) and medical school at Yale-New Haven Hospital (1963). He continued at Yale for his diagnostic radiology residency (1968). While at Yale, he was the Winchester Fellow in Chest Radiology and also was the James Picker Foundation Fellow at Fulham Hospital in London, completing a fellowship in renal research. He spent 24 years at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), and became a professor of radiology in 1976. He simultaneously served as chief of diagnostic radiology, vice chair of the Department of Radiology, and director of the radiology residency training program from 1984 to 1993, as well as section head of uroradiology. Dr Talner also served as chair of the Committee on Academic Personnel for UCSD (1982–1983), a committee that decided on all appointments and promotions for the entire UCSD campus, including the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dr Talner moved to the University of Washington (UW) in 1993 to become director of radiology at Harborview Medical Center, professor of radiology, and associate director of the radiology residency program.

In addition to his numerous academic accomplishments at UCSD and UW, Dr Talner provided outstanding leadership to many national and international radiological societies. He served as the APDR president (1994–1995) and as the president of the Society of Uroradiology (1977–1978) and was a founding member of the European Society of Uroradiology. He was elected a fellow of the American College of Radiology in 1989. Dr Talner’s dedication to advancing radiology research and education has led to numerous awards, including UCSD Radiology Residency Teacher of the Year, UW Research Mentor of the Year, and honorary member of the European Society of Uroradiology. His passion for uroradiology and contributions to the society were recognized by receiving the Gold Medal of the Society of Uroradiology in 2006.

Hundreds of residents and fellows have been fortunate to have Dr Talner as their attending. Thomas Broderick, MD (UCSD 1977), a former resident, stated, “As for Lee, he was always the consummate faculty member. Few have had the combination of knowledge, respect of colleagues and residents, as well as the commitment to excellence in the field of radiology as Lee Talner has had for the 35 years I have known him. If Lee said it was so, it was, no matter what. He had a tremendous impact on my training and subsequent practice of 30 years. If you have the chance, thank him for me for all that he has done.”

Life after radiology has been equally stimulating for Dr Talner. He pursues with great passion his hobbies of photography and music. He is a tremendous advocate for arts education in public schools and has been photographing interactions between performing artists and schoolchildren for more than 10 years. “Moments of Inspiration,” an exhibition of his photographs that chronicled 7 years of school residencies and performances presented by the University of Washington World Series’ outreach and arts education program, Community Connections, was recently displayed at the Seattle City Hall. He serves on the boards of UW World Series, Seattle Baroque Orchestra, Early Music Guild, Pacific Northwest Viols, Early Music America, and the Viola da Gamba Society of America. He also regularly plays viola da gamba in several northwest music ensembles, including the quartet A Curious Collection playing Scottish traditional music. Many of us think that a perfect retirement would include emulation of what Lee has accomplished in his life beyond radiology. In addition to his passion for hobbies, he enjoys a rich family life in Seattle and San Diego with his wife Judy, his children Eric and Ross, and Eric’s wife Donna and their two grandchildren, Jack and Sam.

It is with great pleasure that I present the APDR Achievement Award to Lee B. Talner, MD, who has provided me and hundreds of others with mentorship, inspiration, and a passion for radiology.