Richard M. Heller, M.D.

Dr. Richard M. Heller is Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences and Professor of Pediatrics at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. After coming to Vanderbilt in 1975 to found the Department of Pediatric Radiology, he also served as Program Director of the Radiology Residency Program for 20 years from 1975-1995 before becoming Program Director of the Pediatric Radiology Fellowship, a position he has held for over 15 years since 1995. His love, devotion and dedication to teaching are the reasons this lectureship is sponsored in his honor. It is Dr. Heller’s enduring wish that this lecture continue to educate others in the specialty of Pediatric Radiology for years to come.

Dr. Heller graduated from Carleton College in 1959 and obtained his medical degree from Northwestern Medical School in 1963. After his one year internship at the University of Minnesota Hospital, he joined the United States Air Force and became Captain at the Outpatient Department in USAF Hospital, Izmir, Turkey. When he returned in 1966, Dr. Heller began his residency in radiology at Harvard's Massachusetts General Hospital and concluded with a fellowship in Pediatric Radiology at Harvard's Boston Children's Hospital. In 1970, Dr. Heller joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins and became Assistant Professor of Radiology and of Pediatrics.

Five years later in 1975, Dr. Heller came to Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and founded the Department of Pediatric Radiology. He became its director as well as the Program Director for the Radiology Residency Program. In 1981, Dr. Heller was appointed Honorary Royal Danish Consul in Tennessee and remains so to this day. In 1992, he became a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and a year later became a member of the Council of Foreign Relations in New York. In 1990, he was given the honor of Knight, Chevalier Class Royal Order of Dannebrog, by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe of Denmark and elevated to Knight, First Class in 1999.

Also in 1999, Dr. Heller was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. He has co-authored over 100 articles and six textbooks as well as serving as an expert witness and lecturer on child abuse.

Dr. Heller stepped down as the Director of Pediatric Radiology in 2003 and continues to serve as Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences and Professor of Pediatrics. He continues to serve as Director of the Vanderbilt Pediatric Radiology fellowship program.

The previous chair of Radiology and Radiological Sciences in 2003, Dr. Martin Sandler, spoke of Dr. Heller’s contributions in this way:

“I think Dr. Heller has made an outstanding contribution to the Medical Center in many different facets. He started pediatric radiology in the department, was one of the initiators of the radiology residency program, was key in the recruitment and training of the residency program and has contributed to the academic well-being of the department,” Sandler said. “He has been a major force in radiology for the past 25 years at Vanderbilt, as well as nationally and internationally.”

In 2009, Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital named the Heller Education Center Classroom (VCH 1503) in his honor. The naming was funded by 125 young physicians trained by Dr. Heller, and by his colleagues. His wife, Toni, is a graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School. His daughter is an attorney in Nashville and his son followed in his footsteps as a Pediatric Radiologist in Chicago. He has two grandchildren, Richard IV and Julian.
Donald P. Frush, M.D., F.A.C.R., F.A.A.P.

Donald P. Frush, MD, is Professor of Radiology and Pediatrics, faculty in Medical Physics, Chief of Pediatric Radiology and Vice Chairman for Safety and Quality at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Frush is one of the major leaders in Pediatric Radiology today, an international pillar and pacesetter in pediatric imaging. His greater than 200 publications and grants demonstrate his original thinking and command of the fields of Pediatric Radiology and Physics, pioneering the fields of optimization of medical imaging, radiation protection, quality and safety. Dr. Frush's nearly 200 invited lectures include invitations by the World Health Organization (WHO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), American Academy of Physicians in Medicine (AAPM), US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Institute for Advanced Medical Education (IAME), with venues ranging from Brazil to South Korea.

Dr. Frush's contributions to the field of Pediatric Radiology are both fundamental and innovative, and have been recognized through major national and international awards; these include Clinical Radiology's Top 10 Cited Papers, the Presidential Recognition Award from the Society for Pediatric Radiology, the Caffey Award, given annually to the best Pediatric Radiology research presentation, and appointment to the RSNA Roster of Distinguished Scientific Advisors. Dr. Frush is the recipient of Radiology's consecutive Editor's Recognition Awards for Special Distinction in Reviewing and has served as Consultant to the Editor and Assistant Editor in the journals Radiology and Pediatric Radiology, respectively, and serves on the Editorial Board of both journals. He is an effective and enthusiastic teacher, and serves or has served as the organizer, course director and/or faculty in multiple national and international forums.

The latitude of Dr. Frush’s leadership in our field is extensive. He is a founding member and sits on the Steering Committee of the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging (Image Gently campaign), is a member of the Board of Chancellors of the American College of Radiology (ACR) as the Chair of the Pediatric Commission, is the sitting President of the Society for Pediatric Radiology, and serves as a trustee of the American Board of Radiology (ABR).

It is our great pleasure to welcome Dr. Frush to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, as the 2012 annual speaker in the Heller Lectureship series.

PREVIOUS HELLER LECTURE
October 18, 2010  Rita L. Teele, M.D.  Boston, MA; Auckland, New Zealand