

EUGENE L. SAENGER M.D.

### *Sixth Lauriston S. Taylor Lecturer in Radiation Protection and Measurements*

Eugene L. Saenger of Cincinnati, Ohio is the Sixth Lauriston S. Taylor Lecturer. He was born in Cincinnati and has spent all but a few years of his life there. He graduated from Walnut Hills High School in 1934. The study of the annual for that year shows, that while earning a cum laude, he managed to participate in numerous extra-curricular activities, an indication in these early years of things to come. So it is not surprising to his old friends, some forty-eight years later, to hear of and take pride in his many accomplishments.

He graduated cum laude from Harvard in 1938 with a degree in Biochemical Sciences. He received his degree in medicine from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1942. Internship at Cincinnati General Hospital was followed by a residency in radiology at the same institution from 1943 to 1946. He was named a Diplomate of the American Board of Radiology that same year and in 1972, was awarded the same honor by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine.

In 1949 he accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor of Radiology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and was promoted to full professor in 1962. He took leave during this interim to serve as a Major in the US Army



Eugene L. Saenger

0000028

Medical Corp and was assigned as Chief of the Radioisotope Laboratory at Brooke Army Hospital, Texas. He established the Radioisotope Laboratory at Cincinnati General Hospital in 1950 and has been the Director throughout its history. In 1978 this Laboratory was renamed the Eugene L. Saenger Radioisotope Laboratory in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of Nuclear Medicine as well as his outstanding service to the University. He has also been the Vice-Chairman of the Department of Radiology since 1975.

Over a long and distinguished career, Eugene Saenger has published more than 120 papers covering a remarkable range of subjects in all areas of the radiological sciences including diagnostic radiology, therapeutic radiology, nuclear medicine, radiobiology, radiation safety, and management of radiation accidents. He has made a unique contribution in each of these areas.

Dr. Saenger is a most distinguished member of both the medical and scientific communities. He is a member of some sixteen societies, serving on committees and as an officer for many of these organizations. He has been Associate Editor of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine, a member of the Board of Directors of the Health Physics Society, and is at present the Principal Investigator of a major research project for the Society of Nuclear Medicine called "The Efficacy of Clinical Diagnostic Procedures Utilized in Nuclear Medicine." In addition, he is a consultant to the Division of Compliance of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). He has been a consultant in nuclear medicine to the Surgeon General of the US Air Force; has served on the Advisory Committee to the Federal Radiation Council of the National Academy of Sciences, on the Governor's Advisory Board on Atomic Energy for the State of Ohio, as a committee member for the BEIR Report, as a Consultant to the Bureau of Radiological Health (BRH), and with the Advisory Group on Health Effects for the



# NICRP

James G. Kereiakes introducing the Lecturer

Nuclear Regulatory Commission. His contributions have been of special importance to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP). He was Chairman of the Scientific Committee that produced NCRP Report No. 40, "Protection Against Radiation from Brachytherapy Sources", and NCRP Report No. 55, "Protection of the Thyroid Gland in the Event of Releases of Radioiodine." He served as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Thyroid Blocking Committee from 1972-78 and Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee from 1968-73. He has been a member of the Council and the Board of Directors of the NCRP. He is also at present a member of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

In addition to his various professional activities, Dr. Saenger has been deeply committed to his beloved community of Cincinnati. He has served on committees and boards of the Community Chest Council, the Public Health Federation, and the Cancer Control Council. As a lover of the fine arts, he has found time to serve on the Board of the Cincinnati Ballet Company and committees of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. The University of Cincinnati has benefited greatly as a result of his boundless energy and enthusiasm. Most recently he has been the chairman of the Medical Division of the University's major capital fund raising campaign. He also assumed the burden of chairmanship of the committee for the Medical Center Tax Levy Renewal Campaign this past November. It was approved by the voters by a substantial margin, a tribute to his organizational skills and resolute determination.

Having been a friend of the Saenger family for more than twenty years, I can assure you that Dr. Saenger's most important colleague, to his way of thinking, is his wife Sue. They were married in 1941 and have had forty-one years of a very happy, active life together. They have two married children,

Kitty and Eugene, Jr., and four grandchildren. We are pleased that Sue is with us today.

Dr. Saenger has a well earned reputation for having definite opinions and convictions. One might say his life can be characterized by three C's which come from the core of his being: challenge, controversy, and concern. To illustrate, I quote from a newspaper article written at the time of the dedication of the E. L. Saenger, Radioisotope Laboratory, "I like anything that's a real challenge." (Here the writer describes him as a feisty radiologist). "If someone says 'I don't think you can do that,' that's all I need." If Dr. Saenger is not afraid of a challenge, neither is he afraid of controversy. Even though he is a consultant to the NRC, he wrote to the Commission to tell them that their handling of the Three Mile Island incident was "gross." Certainly, no one has ever accused him of backing off from a discussion on a controversial issue. A number of us here can attest to how convincing he can be on topics related to radiation and radiation effects.

Eugene is also an avid hunter, fisherman and tennis player and the "challenge" characteristic mentioned above carries over to his sports activities. I quote a longtime fishing partner, Dr. Robert McConnell, "When you go fishing with Gene Saenger, and you are prepared for bone fishing with fly rods, you can expect him to bring all his other casting equipment such as spin-fishing for snook and other fish he thinks might be lurking under the water. His goal—to catch more fish—the kind of fish doesn't matter—than anyone else on the outing." As Dr. McConnell says, "There is something 'fishy' but very very loveable about him in every respect." I also understand that although he fishes with some degree of mediocrity, his fish recipes which he prepares himself, such as trout in beer and trout with hollandaise sauce, more than make up for any deficiency in the former effort. Incidentally, for those of you who are fishermen, he really is an excellent

