



Obituary

Perry W Nadig 1928–1997



From the first time I met Perry Nadig, I formed an image in my mind of explorer, adventurer. That first time was in 1980, in Monaco at the second gathering of international scientists meeting and forming a group that was to become eventually the International Society for the Study of Impotence. We have shared over the years many thoughtful heart to heart conversations of what we are about as scientists and where our scientific explorations were going.

Who was Perry Nadig? He was first a physician and urologist, whose compassion and care of patients was exemplary. He was not afraid to still say 'I am the patient's advocate'. He received his education as a medical doctor at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, where he graduated in 1954, and where he was a member of the AOA. He was an intern and assistant resident in general surgery at one of the affiliated Yale University Hospitals. He interrupted his medical education in 1957–1959, where he was a captain in the United States Army Medical Corp with service in Ethiopia. He returned to do his urology residency at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas. He entered into private practice in San Antonio in 1962, and he has served as a clinical professor of urology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas. He has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the Mission Pharmacal Company.

A fellow resident, Dr Logan Holtgrewe, a previous president of the AUA, characterized Perry in a

memorial service eulogy as surgeon of great skill. This friendship with Dr Holtgrewe led to Perry and his wife hosting the 1993 annual meeting of the American Urological Association in San Antonio. Perry and his wife were short term medical missionaries to Tanzania in 1966.

Perry Nadig was a medical innovator, an educator. He was a pioneer in the development of the vacuum device for treatment of erectile dysfunction. He published the first peer review paper for use of that device in 1986. He has since published 25 peer reviewed articles and two book chapters.

Perry Nadig was also a very devoted husband and father, who was married for 43 years. I knew he and his wife well and there were no two individuals that demonstrated the statement of being truly equal partners.

Perry Nadig was an adventurer and traveler. As he said in his curriculum vitae of travel, 'We go to those parts of the world that have not yet been found by tourists'. Examples of places that they visited were the Galapagos Islands, the Peruvian Amazon, Jordan (where he and his wife camped and visited archeological sites), the Sahara Desert (where he and his wife traveled by camel caravan), Botswana, and Papua, New Guinea. On one of the trips in 1989, he and his wife were visiting Antarctica on the ship Bahia Paraiso, which sank after striking a rock near the Antarctic circle. This was certainly a trip to long remember.

Perry Nadig was an accomplished amateur photographer. One of his photos on that trip to Antarctica was printed in the National Geographic magazine.

Lastly, Perry Nadig was a remarkable human being. He was a witty man and no one could ever forget that 'Kris Kringle' smile and demeanor which will always be remembered.

I have been particularly touched by Perry's chosen epitaph, which was adapted from Ben Franklin, 'Here lies Perry Nadig, physician, like an old book, it's cover torn, it's contents worn and shabby, food for the earth. But he is not here, for, as he believed, the book lives, it's cover redone, and it's contents revised by the Editor'. Dr Nadig believed that organ donations allows a human book to live. He would encourage you to be an organ donor.

Memorial contributions can be made to the University of Rochester class of 154 scholarship fund, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 501, Rochester, New York 14692.



Finally, at the conclusion of Perry's memorial service in his hometown, a trio consisting of a trumpet, a trombone and clarinet played 'When the saints go marching on'; what an appropriate tribute to remember at this meeting of the SSI as we meet in the city where this song has so much meaning and

had its beginning. We will stand and have a moment of silence for this fellow physician.

RW Lewis
delivered at the SSI Annual Meeting on April 12,
1997, New Orleans, Louisiana