



Obituary Paul Margosian, Ph.D.

We are extremely sad to share the news that our former colleague Paul Margosian, an accomplished physicist, has passed away. He died at the age of 80 on April 2nd, 2020 after a brave battle with cancer and having contributed greatly to the development of imaging technology in health care.

After earning his Ph.D. in physics from MIT, Paul embarked on a career that began with a role as a CT engineer at Ohio Nuclear (Technicare) between 1976 and 1980. During this time, he headed CT Systems Technology and conducted a research project with Harvard Medical School on cardiac gated acquisitions using CT scanners. Paul then spent a year as an electrical engineer at Analogic in the Greater Boston Area, where he was involved in electrical engineering and physics for early digital ultrasound units. From 1981 to 1983, he was a project manager for digital products at Picker International in Cleveland, Ohio, and a member of the team tasked with developing and delivering an early 0.15 T MRI system.

In 1983, Paul moved to Europe to work as an MRI scientist at Siemens Healthcare in Erlangen, Germany. In those early days of the technology, MR was an extremely exciting field, with almost every project breaking new ground. During his five years at the company, he played a key role in a wide variety of development projects for sequences and reconstruction. Cardiac imaging was one of his main interests at Siemens. Together with Tom Spraggins he explored the first cardiac triggered and gated MRI. Image quality improvement was also one of the many areas that benefited from his exceptional

expertise. This was also the period in which he described half-Fourier reconstruction. Paul worked with Franz Schmitt and David Purdy on the idea that nearly halving the required number of phase encoded signals in k -space could shorten the scan time of an MRI exam. In 1986, they published their seminal paper entitled *Faster MR imaging: imaging with half the data*. (Health Care Instrum. 1986;1(6): 195–197).

After returning to the U.S. in 1988, Paul continued his multifaceted career, supporting many clinical research partnerships, contributing further to MR, and working on positron emission tomography. From 2002 until his retirement, he was an MRI scientist at Hitachi Healthcare Americas and also served on MITA's MRI technical committee.

Last year, Paul attended ISMRM in Montreal and participated in a "Campfire" event organized by Greg Hurst as part of the ISMRM History Project. At this particular edition, entitled "Campfire with a Legend – Early Years of Siemens MRI," Paul shared valuable recollections of his time at Siemens Healthcare in the mid-1980s.

Paul was an exceptional individual – a multitiered scientist with an unfailingly positive outlook who was always ready to help. As well as being widely respected for his expertise, he was also an incredibly well-liked member of the scientific community. He loved Orthodox icons and he shared his experience as a member of the Orthodox Church with some of us, in particular the hymns and the fragrance of burning frankincense and myrrha. He will be sorely missed.