

**Achievement Award  
Association of Program Directors in Radiology  
William Moreau Thompson, MD**

*Introduction by J. H. Arndt, MD*

Not only am I honored to be able to present this portion of the tribute to Bill Thompson, but I also appreciate this opportunity to have the venue to tell the story of his sentimental role in the founding of the APDR.

Most of us in this room who know Bill personally, and there are many, would not likely characterize the man or his activeness as “covert.” Direct, forthright, affable—most would agree with those adjectives. I certainly would, since, as a nonuniversity program director at his first AUR meeting in Nashville in 1987, I was truly a stranger in a strange land. Then this big bear walked up to me and stuck out his hand “forthright from the shoulder” (Meredith) and said “Join us for a beer!”

I remembered Bill for that bit of hospitality, but even more so because after the others had drifted off, we talked at some length about his perception of the future of the AUR and the importance of getting program directors, all program directors, involved in the organization.

Two years later, Bill was the president of the AUR, and I suddenly found myself much more involved with the organization. In the interim, we had come to realize that although there were differences between university and nonuniversity training programs, there were far more similarities. We shared common roots and would likely share a common future.

In 1992, the Program Director’s Symposium Committee of the AUR was asked to look into a method of increasing the participation of all program directors.

The response to the proposal for an association of program directors under the aegis of the AUR was, as we now know, phenomenal. It surprised almost everyone, including those of us most involved in the process.

Bill Thompson’s perspicacity and vision had been vindicated, and from that point forward, it became his prodigious knowledge of individuals and of institutions that was crucial. Selecting the right people for committees and leadership positions and then convincing them to commit to a significant, yet poorly defined, workload took special persuasion. In those early years, no one was selected who had not been proposed by or at least passed by the scrutiny of Bill Thompson. The results again spoke for themselves.

So, as you can see, Bill’s role in the development of the APDR has indeed been largely covert, like the iceberg, two-thirds below the surface. He foresaw, when few did, the desirability of breaking with tradition in order to uncover strengths that would devolve from the union of the cognate branches of academic radiology. He selected and put into place that which could effect the transition, and then he ran interference until the momentum of the organization took over.

I am personally very happy that the accomplishments of Bill Thompson are being recognized, particularly because in the 14 years since I had been a recipient of that “forthright” handshake, Shelia and I have come to look on Bill and Judy Thompson as two of our closest and most valued friends.

**APDR Achievement Award Recipients**

1997	Jerome H. Arndt, MD	2000	Spencer B. Gay, MD
1999	David S. Hartman, MD		