

‘Testimonial in honor of John M. Braver, MD’  
May 25, 2016  
*Stuart G. Silverman, MD*

Tribute to John M. Braver, MD

Stuart G. Silverman, M.D.

Transcript of remarks delivered at Brigham and Women’s Hospital

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It is difficult to believe; our resident senior distinguished clinician, Dr John Braver is retiring. John has been at the Brigham for 37 years. John trained at Tufts and after a brief period as staff at the New England Medical Center joined the Brigham faculty in 1979. Since then, John has been a clinical stalwart and outstanding educator in the field of GI fluoroscopy. One of the first textbooks I ever read in radiology was his textbook, entitled “Essentials of Gastrointestinal Radiology”, published in 1982. GI fluoroscopy is a ‘labor of love’ for John. He has performed GI fluoroscopy virtually every day during his long and illustrious career. The way I figure it, John has performed more than 166,000 fluoroscopic exams at the Brigham (10-20 exams per day, working on average 4-5 days per week for approximately 45 weeks per year for 37 years). GI fluoroscopic procedures are difficult procedures requiring special skills and knowledge. He has helped countless numbers of patients, and related to patients in a compassionate and professional manner that has been an example for our residents for years.

John has been an outstanding educator and trained hundreds of Brigham residents through the years – He has received the ‘Teacher of the Year’ award and is loved by all the trainees who ever worked with him. His retirement will leave an important void in our Section and we will need to work hard to replace his teaching. This is a problem for all abdominal radiologists; I am concerned how we are going to train future radiologists in GI fluoroscopy.

John’s dedication to his craft is matched only by who he is as a person – ultimately that is how we are all judged. John is always willing to sacrifice his time to help others – whether it be volunteering to deliver another teaching conference, offering to agree to a clinic switch, covering for someone who is ill (done countless times) or working on his research day to tutor many of us in GI fluoroscopy. John has never said ‘no’. He has never spoken a bad word about anyone, and never requires any praise. Today, however, it is time to recognize him as one of the finest clinicians this Department has ever seen. Over the past year, we have evaluated almost 60 applicants to replace John (and Servet) and find someone with John’s work ethic and personal qualities. I am not sure it will ever be possible.

John is starting a new chapter in his life and hopefully will enjoy retirement and life outside of radiology. He will always be welcome as a visitor (and if he wants to do GI fluoroscopy a day or two...).

John, on behalf of the Section, Steven and the rest of the Department, I thank you for your many years of hard work and service, your loyalty, and most of all, your friendship. Congratulations and may your retirement bring you the joy and pleasure that you deserve after such a long and illustrious career.