

In Memoriam



Ferenc A. Jolesz, MD 1946–2014

Dr Ferenc A. Jolesz, a world-renowned clinician-scientist and one of the greatest innovators and leaders in radiology, passed away suddenly on December 31, 2014.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, on May 21, 1946, Dr Jolesz enrolled in the Semmelweis Medical School in the late 1960s, earning his MD degree in 1971. He completed a research fellowship in biomedical engineering at K. Kando College of Electrical Engineering, followed by a residency in neurosurgery at the Institute of Neurosurgery (Budapest, Hungary).

Dr Jolesz came to the United States in 1979 to begin a fellowship in neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, Mass) and the Boston Biomedical Research Institute. This was followed by a research fellowship in physiology at Harvard Medical School (Boston, Mass). He joined the Radiology Department of Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston, Mass) in 1982, first as a resident and then as a clinical fellow in neuroradiology. In 1985, he joined the faculty at the Brigham and Harvard Medical School. In 1998, he was appointed the B. Leonard Holman Chair in Radiology at Harvard Medical School.

Dr Jolesz was a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He received the Outstanding Researcher Award from the Radiological Society of North America and the Gold Medal of the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine. He was inducted into the Hungarian National Academy of Sciences and received several awards and honorary degrees from Hungarian universities and national scientific societies, including the Szentgyorgyi Award of the Hungarian National Academy of Sciences.

As the "father of modern day MRI-guided therapy," he spearheaded the development and implementation of innovative interventional magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, including adaptation with other devices, image processing, and navigation methods.

He was the driving force behind the first intraoperative MR imager (the Signa SP, MR Therapy) in collaboration with GE Healthcare. He and his team of co-investigators established the National Institutes of Health-supported National Center for Image-guided Therapy and, in 2011, the Advanced Multimodality Image Guided Operating (AMIGO) suite at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the only one of its kind in the world.

Dr Jolesz and colleagues were also pioneers in the field of MR imaging-guided focused ultrasound surgery. They have applied this noninvasive method to the treatment of solid neoplasms, functional neurosurgery, blood-brain barrier disruption for targeted drug delivery, which when combined with microbubbles may offer a novel treatment for Alzheimer disease.

Dr Jolesz was a brilliant radiologist, a unique star whose boundless creativity, enthusiasm, generosity, and great humor made him a leader and colleague without equal, and a man who is truly missed. He was loved by all who knew him, especially "Ferenc's people," as much for his sincere friendship and his warm collegiality, as for his substantial career achievements.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Anna; and his two daughters, Klara and Marta.

—CLARE M.C. TEMPANY-AFDHAL AND
STEVEN E. SELTZER