The community of forensic radiology lost a pillar in the recent
Dr. Brogdon was an Honorary Member of the ISFRI and seen by
many members of our Society as Godfather of Forensic Radiology.
His career spanned more than six decades, several continents,
touched numerous disciplines, and garnered awards and accolades. Gil Brogdon was an internationally recognized authority in
forensic radiology. His textbook Forensic Radiology (1998) is a
keystone to our field and still is a reference for practitioners and
researches in forensic radiology and imaging.

B.G. Brogdon was born in 1929 in Arkansas (USA). He earned
his medical doctorate in 1952 from the University of Arkansas and
obtained is board certification in radiology four years later. During
his career he was Chief of Diagnostic Radiology at the Johns
Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD (USA), Chairman of the
Department of Radiology at the University of New Mexico in
Albuquerque, NM (USA), and Chairman of the Department of
Radiology at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL
(USA). Dr. Brogdon's career included numerous visiting professor-
ships in the USA and Europe and countless lectures across the
world. He authored or co-authored more than 360 publications, 65
book chapters and six books.

Professor Brogdon was a pioneer in forensic radiology.
Throughout his career he was a strong advocate of interdisciplin-
ary collaboration and communication between radiology and
forensic sciences. He was an active and highly esteemed member
of both the radiologic and forensic community: Professor Brogdon
was a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic
Sciences, Past President of the American College of Radiology, a
member of the Forensic Sciences Foundation Board of Trustees, a
Life Member of the American Roentgen Ray Society and Emeritus
Member of the Radiologic Society of North America. In addition he
received numerous awards and medals for his contributions to the
fields of radiology and forensic sciences and was an Honorary
Member to several scientific societies.

Dr. Brogdon died at the age of 85, at his home in Mobile, AL
(USA), surrounded by his children. He was preceded in death by
his beloved wife Babs. Gil Brogdon will be missed by his family and
his numerous personal and professional friends.

1. Personal comment on the death of Gil Brogdon by personal
friends and professional colleagues

Everything about Dr. Brogdon was exemplary. He was a
dedicated educator, a supportive mentor, a doting husband, a
humanitarian and a sincere friend. I was so impressed with his
ability to juggle so many obligations simultaneously with such
finesse. He never missed a beat and his memory was impeccable.
I’m certain that he could recall the names and faces of everyone he
had ever met and he could tell you something unique about
everyone. Dr. Brogdon inspired me in both my professional and
personal life. He was a dear friend and a trusted confidant.

I will always think fondly of the great times that we spent
together – enjoying cocktails at the Grand Hotel, navigating the
American Academy of Forensic Sciences and celebrating our birth-
days together. I have lost a cherished friend and the world has lost
a great man. Jamie Elifritz, MD. University of New Mexico, AL (USA)

I first “met” Dr. Brogdon through his writing, in his first edition
of Forensic Radiology. I was thoroughly impressed by his candor
and his articulate, thorough and often humorous approach to
scientific writing. Having minored in the history and philosophy of
science, Dr. Brogdon's appreciation of medical history and his
introduction to the history of forensic radiology struck home. Already
leaning towards a career that would in some way involve
forensic radiology, Dr. Brogdon pushed me over!

Meeting Dr. Brogdon in person was an experience. He was
twice as funny and twice as interesting as his writing. He was
supremely generous with his time and intellect and somehow
managed to move about with more energy than colleagues
literally half his age (and sometimes younger). I had the great
pleasure to attend his lectures on the history of forensic radiology
on several occasions – a never-ending stream of fact and interest-
ing anecdote – as if Dr. Brogdon had stood right at Roentgen's
shoulder as he toiled to expound on his newly found rays. I
still have, and often refer to the handwritten noted I scrawled,
literally, on the back of an envelope, when he offered his
prescription for a successful career in Forensic Radiology. I owe
him a great debt. I hope I can repay that debt by carrying forward
at least some small fraction of his energy, enthusiasm, collabora-
tive spirit and knowledge and sharing it with the current and next

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generations of radiologists, residents, technologists, pathologists, anthropologists and so on.

I consider myself truly fortunate in that Dr. Brogdon was not just a mentor, not just a model for my career, but also a friend. Although I knew the end would come, as it does for us all, it did not prevent the shock and grief. I will miss him a great deal, as will so many. Next year’s Academy meeting will not be the same. Gary M. Hatch, MD, University of New Mexico, AL (USA)

I first met Gil Brogdon at the annual meeting of the German Society of Forensic Medicine in 2001, in Interlaken (Switzerland). My mentor, Prof. Richard Dirnhofer had invited Gil Brodgon to lecture on forensic radiology and to share our preliminary experience with the Virtopsy project with Gil Brogdon. I was deeply impressed by Gil’s open mind and his genuine interest in innovation. He was a true gentleman and this very first meeting was the starting point of a 16-year long friendship with Gil and later also with his wife Babs. We meet every year, typically meeting of the AAFS or the RSNA but also at other conventions and congresses all over the world.

Gil had always had close ties to Switzerland and the Swiss Society of Radiology and in 1992 – long before I met him – the Swiss Society of Radiology had awarded Gil with their most prestigious honor, the Schinz medal for his outstanding contributions to the field of radiology.

Gil kept his close relationship to Switzerland and was an active supporter of the Virtopsy project. Gil Brogdon remained active after his retirement and kept a close eye on the developments in forensic radiology. He was delighted when the ISFRI was formed and, unexpectedly, he was also the first member of our Society to like the ISFRI on Facebook. In 2012, during the first ISFRI Congress Gil Brogdon was also nominated Honorary Member of the ISFRI for his outstanding contributions to the field of forensic radiology, together with Richard Dirnhofer and Peter Vock, both founders of the Virtopsy project.

The last time I saw Gil Brogdon was at conference in Marseille in October 2012. We took a taxi to the Vieux Port, the picturesque old harbor of Marseille and sat down in a small café. We drank Pastis together, and watched the world go by. This time, as I returned to Marseille for the 3rd ISFRI Congress, Gil was no longer there to join me for our Pastis. Dear Gil, thank you for all the support you give to us. We will remember you forever – you gave us so much! Michael J Thali, University of Zurich (Switzerland)