A Tribute to Dr. Kay Vydareny

As mentioned by Dr. Lane Donnelly in his “From the Editor” article at the beginning of this issue, Dr. Kay Vydareny retired at the end of June after nine years of service to the ABR as associate executive director for diagnostic radiology and the subspecialties. For this “Focus on Diagnostic Radiology” article, we thought it would be appropriate to share some other tributes to Dr. Vydareny. As you can tell from the quotes that follow, she will be greatly missed!

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Kay was my panel chair during my first year as an oral examiner. I was a little star struck as she is such an icon of women radiology leaders. I remember she made me feel so welcome and took extra time to be sure I understood the process. The panel was very efficient, but we also had many stress-relieving laughs. That was the beginning of a wonderful friendship for me.

—Cheri L. Canon, MD, ABR Board of Trustees

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If you did a Google search with the terms dedication, honesty and integrity, Kay's picture should be the first hit that pops up. She has an incredible ability to distill complex topics down into solvable units.

—Donald J. Flemming, MD, ABR Board of Trustees

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Kay Vydareny has had a career (and easy to see a lifetime) punctuated by all those qualities a physician must have to be in the acclaimed (but rarely attained) marriage of an influential mentor and role model. And this is underscored and even more fortified by the constancy of grace. How fortunate the Board and profession have been to have her embrace us and help us to be better.

—Donald P. Frush, MD, ABR Board of Governors; Chair, ABR Board of Trustees

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I have had the good fortune to work with Kay in a number of venues over the years. She has risen to the top of every organization she joined because of her hard work, dedication, common sense, and generous spirit. She has been a wonderful mentor to countless individuals, including me. Kay, thanks for all you have done to make the world a better place. We will miss you, but you will always be part of the ABR family!

—Valerie P. Jackson, MD, ABR Executive Director

It has been wonderful to work with Kay! I admire her hard work and humor. She has a unique and valuable ability to take complex issues, distill them, and rephrase them in ways that help get to the essence of the issue. Kay has been a devoted volunteer and member of the ABR family for many years and will be missed.

—Mary C. Mahoney, MD, ABR Board of Governors

I first met Kay while she was examining me on the oral boards. Her amiable and caring disposition showed through in that brief encounter and has been reinforced in every interaction since. She will be missed at the ABR.

—Vincent P. Mathews, MD, ABR Board of Governors

Dr. Kay Vydareny has been, for me, a stupendous mentor and friend, both at Emory and within the ABR. She is unfailingly respectful, funny, kind, and helpful. As she nears retirement, Kay remains sharp as a tack! It is so clear as one spends time with her why she is revered by family, friends, and colleagues!

—Mary S. Newell, MD, ABR Board of Trustees

Kay Vydareny is a rare and wonderful person, truly one of a kind, and I have been extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to know her and work with her.

If they existed, Kay Vydareny would hold world champion titles such as mentor extraordinaire, most able to guide discussions around potholes and danger zones, and best at distilling complex information into a cogent core.

—M. Elizabeth Oates, MD, ABR Board of Trustees

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When I first came on the board, Kay was a member of the DR contingent. I had met her previously but as a spouse of Dr. Bill Casarella, whom I knew through interventional radiology circles. Kay was (and is) incredibly kind and generous with her time. She was a wonderful mentor, always supportive and encouraging.

I then had the privilege to serve with her on the Radiology Residency Review Committee for the ACGME. During part of the time she was the chair, and she led a review and revision of the program requirements. Doing these revisions is a very time-consuming and sometimes frustrating project as different people have different approaches to the requirements. Kay handled it all with aplomb and good humor, and we ended up with very significant and important changes.

Since my return to the ABR as associate executive director for interventional radiology, Kay again has been so helpful to me in fitting in to this new role. Once again she has shown me the ropes.

I—and I know the ABR—will miss her kindness, humor, and wisdom. We wish her well with her new adventures!

—Anne C. Roberts, MD, ABR Associate Executive Director for Interventional Radiology

Kay is a truly unique individual: soft-spoken but direct, never a hint of cynicism, incredible ‘corporate’ memory, and incredible stature and respect in the radiology community. Every time Kay speaks I learn something! She is irreplaceable!

—Paul E. Wallner, DO, ABR Associate Executive Director for Radiation Oncology

The voice of reason and civility. An honor to have her as a friend.

—Robert D. Zimmerman, MD, ABR Board of Trustees