I. Nagler 1957. One equally large series of 1,000 about 50 related papers had appeared since the same journal four years previously, and published a paper on the same subject in the scanning, and the radioactive agents we ters had similar equipment for rectilinear high ly cited. At that time, many other cen- these patients. Robert Ause, a resident in radiology fell, fortunately to the floor and not on the scintillation detector came loose from one day, while scanning a patient, a near-catastrophe hap- at night, while he was chief resident in medi- engineer, James Mozley, in a small 12' x 13' room in the radiology department of Johns Hopkins Hospital. His associate, Henry Wagner, performed many of these studies alone at night, while he was chief resident in medicine. Only one near-catastrophe happened— one day, while scanning a patient, the scintillation detector came loose from its moorings with its 75-pound shield and fell, fortunately to the floor and not on the patient. Robert Ause, a resident in radiology at the time, painstakingly accumulated the clinical laboratory and pathological data on these patients.

"It is surprising that this paper has been cited in over 225 publications since 1965.

John G. McAfee
Department of Radiology
Division of Radiological Sciences
State University of New York
Upstate Medical Center
Syracuse, NY 13210

July 6, 1984

"These studies were done because internists had trouble in differentiating focal hep atic lesions, such as metatases, from diffuse diseases, such as cirrhosis. The earlier studies were performed with a primitive rectilinear scanner jury-rigged from commerc ial and homemade parts put together by an engineer, James Mozley, in a small 12' x 13' room in the radiology department of Johns Hopkins Hospital. His associate, Henry Wagner, performed many of these studies alone at night, while he was chief resident in medicine. Only one near-catastrophe happened—one day, while scanning a patient, the scintillation detector came loose from its moorings with its 75-pound shield and fell, fortunately to the floor and not on the patient. Robert Ause, a resident in radiology at the time, painstakingly accumulated the clinical laboratory and pathological data on these patients.

"It is surprising that this paper has been highly cited. At that time, many other centers had similar equipment for rectilinear scanning, and the radioactive agents we used were not new. We had already published a paper on the same subject in the same journal four years previously, and about 50 related papers had appeared since 1957. One equally large series of 1,000 hep atic scans had been reported previously. Perhaps this paper appeared at the right time, when nuclear imaging by rectilinear scanning was just becoming popular, and when no other methods for hepatic imaging were available. We did show that rectilinear scanning usually could distinguish between focal and diffuse hepatic lesions. The paper documented many normal variations in hep atic configuration and size, and systematically analyzed the abnormalities encountered in congenital and acquired lesions. Prior to this paper, it was probably not appreciated that such a wide variety of lesions could produce focal photopenic defects in liver images, and that adjacent extrinsic masses could markedly deform this organ. "The methods described in our paper are now totally obsolete. In the intervening years, the rectilinear scanner has become a historical relic, replaced by the more effici ent Anger scintillation scanner. The older radioactive agents have been superseded by Tc-99m sulfur or microaggregated albumin colloids. Although these technical advances improved the spatial resolution of radionuclide images, the objective findings in various hepatic lesions have not changed markedly. Despite the advent of competing noninvasive modalities (ultrasonography, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging), radionuclide imaging still has maintained a role in the investigation of liver disease."

"Wagner has received numerous awards including the George von Hevesy Medal from the Gesellschaft für Nuklearmedizin, the Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award from the Society of Nuclear Medicine, and the Francis E. Schwenkler Award of Johns Hopkins Hospital. I have received a Gold Medal Award and the Paul C. Aebersold Award from the Society of Nuclear Medicine and a Designated Scholar Award from the State University of New York. We both have received the Hermann L. Blumgart Award of the New England Chapter, Society of Nuclear Medicine. We suspect that these awards were not granted on the basis of this particular paper."