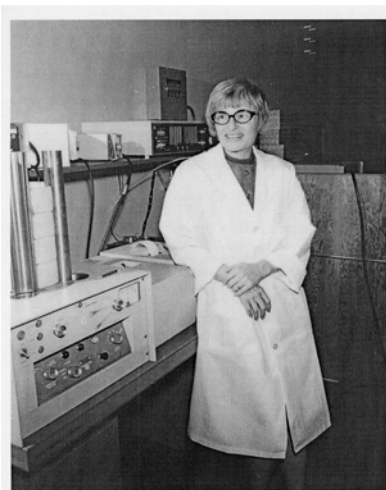


Patricia Durbin-Heavey died quietly at the age of 81 at her home on Thursday, March 5, while reading the newspaper in her favorite chair and preparing her dinner. Pat Durbin started work at the Crocker Laboratory, a predecessor of parts of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, in 1946 while still an undergraduate at UC Berkeley. She went on to do her Ph.D. at Berkeley in the emerging field of biophysics, with a specific interest in the medicine and biology of radionuclides. This had application both for hazards but also for the emerging field of medical treatment using radionuclides and the use of isotopes as tracers in biological studies. (For a fascinating history of the early radionuclide research at Crocker Laboratory and the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory see the Medical Physics oral history interview with Pat: Patricia C. Wallace Durbin-Heavey, "Radionuclide Research at Crocker Laboratory and the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory," an oral history conducted in 1979 and 1980 by Sally Smith Hughes, Regional Oral History Office/History of Science and Technology Program, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 2002. On the web at:



[http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/collections/subjectarea/sci\\_tech/medical\\_physics.html](http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/collections/subjectarea/sci_tech/medical_physics.html))

At the time of her death she was still actively engaged in research at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, working specifically on sequestering agents for decorporation of radionuclides. She had recently written a major review article and another shorter review based on her award of the Lauriston S. Taylor Lecture which she presented in 2007, an honor bestowed by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. Her lecture entitled “The



Patricia Durbin-Heavey, 1976.  
(photo courtesy of Lawrence Berkeley Lab Photographic Services)



Quest for Therapeutic Actinide Chelators” was a summary of much of the research of the latter half of her career. She was the doyenne of the health physics community and, more specifically, of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

In addition to her passion for science, Pat loved classical music, liked to entertain (particularly in her earlier years when her husband Jim

Heavey was still alive) and enjoyed her family. Shown above is a photograph of Pat in 1976, about the time she began her collaboration with Ken Raymond and coworkers on the development of actinide-specific sequestering agents. Also shown is a photograph from April 2008 dancing with Tom Garrett, a graduate student with whom she worked in the 1980's, on the occasion of an American Chemical Society award celebration.

A long-standing and generous contributor to the San Francisco Opera and its Merola program, after her husband's death Pat opened her home to a series of young performing classical singers

while they honed their technique. Her quiet support, on many levels, mentored several careers enabling artists to go to Europe, to complete their studies and further their careers.

Pat Durbin was born in Oakland on April 7, 1927. She attended Oakland public schools and earned her Bachelor of Science and Ph.D. degrees at UC Berkeley. She married James Heavey, who brought to the marriage four children from a previous marriage. She is survived by her sister Nancy Page of Oakland, her daughter Lenore Heavey and granddaughter Clare Appleby, step children Loanne Slapar, James Heavey, Kevin Heavey and Kerry Sundberg, her half brothers Pendleton Wallace, John Wallace and James Wallace and a number of nephews, nieces and step grandchildren. A public service is planned for early summer.