will participate in the event that highlights the history of radioactive iodine, which is sponsored by the Maimonides Society, the Jewish student association of Harvard's medical and dental schools.

Hertz, who was only 3 when her father died, said his contributions might have been deliberately downplayed in the past.


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Recommendation To Admit 100,0
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Spotting the News
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UN Commission to Report on Human Rights

A Jewish Advocate story in May 1946 touts Hertz's achievements.

She pointed to a letter Hertz's colleague Roberts wrote 20 years ago in response to the book "A Constant Ferment" by Dr. John Stanbury on the history of the MGH Thyroid Clinic.

Roberts rejected Stanbury's claims that the question Hertz posed to Compton came out of a group discussion. Roberts also challenged Stanbury's assertion that Robley Evans, then director of the MIT radioactivity lab, played a significant role in the iodine research.

Roberts wrote that Evans was not involved with the team working on radioactive iodine because "that was the way he wanted it. ... I do not know why; but it may well be, in view of his known anti- Semitism, that he could not stomach the notion of working with two Jews."

In 1938, MIT received a $30,000 donation for a cyclotron that would create longer-lasting radioactive iodine. Hertz used the cyclotron to produce sodium iodide to treat patients with hyperthyroidism. In 1941, he administered the radioactive iodine to the first person in a series of 29 patients.

Above: Dr. Saul Hertz will be honored at Harvard Jan. 23.

Hertz joined the Navy in WWII, serving on the Manhattan Project. When he returned to Boston, he was not welcomed back to MGH, his daughter said. Instead, he took a job at Beth Israel Hospital. A few months later, he received a phone call from the editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association.*

The editor, a personal friend, explained that he received a paper for publication from Dr. Earl Chapman of MGH (who had taken over Hertz's cases when he was in the Navy) and Evans, indicating they had propriety over radioactive iodine. "What is going on here?" the editor asked.

Hertz and Roberts wrote their own paper on the use of radioactive iodine therapy in successfully treating hyperthyroidism in that first series of 29 patients. The editor published both pieces in the same issue of JAMA.

In 1946, Hertz established the Radioactive Isotope Research Institute in Boston. It focused on research and treatments for thyroid cancer, goiter and malignant tumors using fission products. Hertz also taught at MIT, in a field known today as nuclear medicine.

It was only by happenstance that Barbara Hertz, a retired special education teacher who lives in Connecticut, discovered the significance of the work of her father, who died of a heart attack at age 45. She knew her father was involved with thyroid research, but she didn't know much else about what he did. After her mother died in 2000, Hertz told an oncologist in Boston, Dr. Donald

Goldstein, about her father's papers.

"I said you're a researcher, what do you do with the papers?"

He then asked her if she was related to Roy Hertz, who discovered an early drug treatment for a cancerous tumor. She replied that Roy was her uncle.

Goldstein said, "Roy taught me everything I know about chemotherapy when I worked at NIH [National Institutes of Health]."

At the time, Hertz did not even know if her uncle was alive. It turned out, he was 90 years old, and living in Maryland. When she visited him and other relatives, Hertz learned just how influential her father's research had been.

Since then, Hertz has worked to raise awareness of her father's work. She wrote an article for a medical journal; contacted professional organizations to ask that they formally honor her father; started a Web site, SaulHertzMD.com; and successfully had her father be inducted into the National Museum of American Jewish History as one of the 300 notables in the "Only in America Gallery."

Hertz met the president of MIT, Susan Hockfield, at the school's 150th anniversary celebration, and they talked about her father's work.

"As soon as I introduced myself, she said your dad's letter to Dr. Compton regarding