IN MEMORIAM

Luis Felipe Fajardo L-G, MD
1927–2013

Luis Felipe Fajardo L-G, the gentle “king” of radiation pathology, passed away on July 5, 2013 in Palo Alto, CA. Luis was born in 1927 in Bogota, Colombia, where he completed his primary and secondary education. He attended medical school at the National University of Colombia, graduating with an MD degree in 1952. After training and serving in Pathology at several hospitals in his native Colombia and in Connecticut in the U.S., he was certified by the American Board of Pathology. He was appointed as Assistant Professor at Stanford University in 1965, and subsequently rose through the ranks of the Department of Pathology, becoming a Tenured Full Professor in 1984 with a joint appointment at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital. He retired in 2005 and became Emeritus Professor.

Luis was an undisputed leader and a “go-to” resource in the field of radiation pathology. At Stanford, he and his colleagues developed an animal model for radiation induced heart disease and helped shed light on the mechanisms of injury to the heart during radiotherapy for adjacent malignant neoplasms. He also actively studied radiation injury in several other mammalian tissues and organs. Luis’ research interests were varied and, in addition to radiation pathology, he also investigated angiogenesis, hyperthermia and experimental cerebral malaria. In 1996 he described the discovery of a new larval stage of a parasite, lethal to its human host. Luis’ work was published in more than 140 original articles in peer-reviewed journals. His two books dedicated to radiation pathology, published in 1982 and 2001, remain the definitive texts in radiation pathology for many of us.

Luis has strongly influenced the careers of many radiation biologists and radiation oncologists in the U.S. and abroad. However, for those of us who were fortunate enough to know him personally, he was also recognized as a true gentleman with a wide variety of other interests. His outgoing personality, fondness for nature, openness to new experiences, and