IN MEMORIAM

Raymond E. Meyn, Jr., Ph.D.
1942–2017

Raymond E. Meyn, a widely respected radiation oncology researcher and Professor in the Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, died December 27, 2017 after a long battle with cancer. Ray earned his Ph.D. in Radiation Biophysics from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, in 1969 and then undertook postdoctoral studies in Biophysics at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) in Houston. In 1971, he joined the faculty at MDACC and the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He served as the Deputy Department Chair in the Physics Department in 1980 and 1981, and Chair Ad interim of the Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology from 2003 to 2010. Ray was awarded an Ashbel Smith Professorship from 1991 to 1996 and was designated the Kathryn O’Connor Professor from 1997 until he retired. His retirement lasted the mandatory 30 days, at which time he was back in the lab, as he had an active RO1 to manage.

Ray saw firsthand the burden of cancer on patients and their families, and he dedicated himself to research that would lessen that burden through more effective treatment. Ray’s earliest research examined the effect of radiation on DNA replication, cell cycle-dependent drug and radiation toxicity, and the characterization of fast neutron radiotherapy beams. Ray naturally transitioned to DNA damage and repair, focusing on DNA crosslinking agents amongst others. Subsequently, Ray’s work in radiation- and chemotherapy-induced apoptosis changed how biologists and clinicians view therapeutic cell death.

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