

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS GEORGE W. WIRTANEN

George W. Wirtanen, M.D. passed away on May 29, 2002 at the age of 72 in Clearwater, Florida. George was born in Waukegan, Illinois. He graduated from high school early to join the United States Army and served in Japan. As a pharmacy student at the University of Florida, George met and married his wife and long-time companion Virginia (Blanton). After graduation, George attended the University of Florida Medical School, graduating with the first class of students at the school. In 1993 the University of Florida Medical School honored him as one of their outstanding graduates.

George came to the University of Wisconsin in 1960 for internship and specialty training as a radiologist. He remained here as a board-certified teacher and researcher, serving also as associate director of the U.W. Comprehensive Cancer Center and as director of the Radiation Oncology section in the Department of Human Oncology from 1979-1982. One of George's important professional accomplishments was the development and perfection of the transbrachial intraarterial delivery of chemotherapy for cancer patients. This allowed precision, less toxic chemotherapy and permitted patients for the first time to be ambulatory while receiving intraarterial chemotherapy. He was recognized as the world expert in this cancer treatment development, and was invited to speak at many international meetings. George was a visiting professor in many countries including Helsinki, Finland; Linkoping, Sweden; Oslo, Norway; and Bern, Switzerland. During his visits to Finland he lectured in Finnish. He set up a highly successful exchange program for radiation oncology professors between the University of Wisconsin and Finland, Sweden and Norway. George was also the principle investigator for the National Cancer Institute Grant in the Department of Radiation Oncology. After a thirty-year career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School, George also served as the director of the Mercy Cancer Center in Janesville for three years before retiring in Florida.

Dr. Wirtanen was an outstanding teacher and innovative researcher. He trained a number of residents, giving them a unique type of training in human tumor lymphatic physiology and anatomy and tumor vascularity. He also pioneered several specialized techniques related to drug infusion. He is fondly remembered by his colleagues, university alumni, medical student, residents and allied health professionals. Above all he was a caring physician and his personal touch was highly appreciated by every patient that he treated. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; two daughters and two sons; and four grandchildren.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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