
**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Terry DeWayne Oberley**

Terry DeWayne Oberley, M.D., Ph.D. was a member of the faculty of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine from 1977 until his death on October 15, 2013 at the age of 67.

Dr. Oberley was born on January 23, 1946 in Effingham, southern Illinois, but grew up in Janesville, Wisconsin where he also attended high school. He received his B.A., M.D. and Ph.D. degrees at Northwestern University in Chicago and completed residency training in anatomic pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1974. Dr. Oberley went on to become a tenured faculty member in pathology at UW-Madison and served on the staff of the William S. Middleton Veterans Administration Hospital for over 30 years. He also served as Director of renal pathology and of electron microscopy for many years.

Dr. Oberley's clinical work focused on renal pathology. He trained under Dr. Peter Burkholder, one of the pioneers of kidney biopsy interpretation, and had to take over the clinical renal pathology service as a junior Assistant Professor when his mentor left for another institution. New challenges came when UW Hospital started its kidney transplantation program, which, over the years, turned into one of the busiest in the U.S. Dr. Oberley adapted and grew the renal pathology service so that clinical needs were always met.

While he was a very competent and dedicated pathologist, his true love and passion was research, which explored reactive oxygen species and redox signaling in cancer development and therapy. When you entered Dr. Oberley's office to, for example, show him a kidney biopsy or to discuss a residency-related issue, you couldn't leave before he had had an opportunity to excitedly share his lab's latest experimental results. During the early years of his career, he applied his research to study glomerular cells in culture and later to gain a better understanding of cancer growth regulation. He published well over 200 research articles and 20 book chapters and was well respected in his field. Terry was honored with a Veterans Administration Research Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. He also served the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine as an interim Chair (1995) and then as Vice Chair for Research until stepping down in 2011.

Dr. Oberley excelled as both a teacher and a mentor. He had the rare talent of being able to condense complex topics to their essence, enabling learners to grasp difficult concepts. He mentored numerous graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, pathology residents and visiting scholars, many of which now hold academic appointments at major universities.

Dr. Oberley's accomplishments are even more remarkable when one considers the challenges life threw at him. Due to an inherited disorder, he developed chronic kidney failure at the age of 27 while in medical school and became dependent on dialysis. This was not only a continuous drain on energy and time, but required constant forethought and planning. For example, before attending a professional conference, he had to make arrangements with a dialysis center at the meeting site. Despite this and many other health problems, he rarely missed a day of work, never complained and projected his love for work and life to those around him.

Dr. Oberley received much support from his wife, best friend and soul mate, Edi, a native of Montana. Edi and Terry, were strong advocates for patients with chronic kidney disease. Terry shared his passion for research with his twin brother Larry, who served as Professor of Radiation Oncology at the University of Iowa. When the two misbehaved during their younger years or when things didn't go as planned later in life, they would blame it on their imaginary "evil triplet". His brother's death in 2008 and his wife's death in 2009 were big blows to Terry but he continued working until the end. The proximity of his sons Alex and Matt, Matt's wife Khanh and his two grandchildren who lived in Madison, contributed to his enthusiasm for living during the last three years of his life

The wellbeing of his department, the University of Wisconsin and the VA Hospital were always Dr. Oberley's primary concern. He consistently placed the benefits of his mentees above his own. He impacted pathology at the UW immensely and will be missed.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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