Paul P. Carbone, MD

(1931–2002)

Dr. Carbone was born in White Plains, New York, and received his medical degree from Albany Medical College. He received his initial medical training in the US Public Health Services in Baltimore and San Francisco. He then joined the National Cancer Institute in 1960. He became chairman of the medical branch of the National Cancer Institute in 1968. In 1971, he was elected chairman of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), a post he held for 20 years, during which he led the group through many turbulent times. In 1976 he moved to Wisconsin to assume chairmanship of the Department of Oncology. He subsequently became director of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Centre for 20 years until he stepped down in 1997. He was a founding member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the first Examination Board Committee member of the American Board of Internal Medicine in medical oncology. He was elected ASCO president in 1972 and AACR president in 1979.

He dedicated more than 40 years of his academic career to research, education and patient care. He was a tireless researcher and educator. He made several important contributions to medicine and oncology. He played a central role in the understanding of cytogenetics in chronic myelogenous leukemia, the development of a curative treatment for Hodgkin's disease, and adjuvant chemotherapy for early-stage breast cancer patients, to name but a few of his scientific contributions. He was not only an outstanding clinician and a fatherly figure loved by all his patients, but also an astute researcher who tried to take clinical problems into the laboratory and foster research cooperation as well as educate the next generation of oncologists. Patients traveled from all corners of

the world to see him, yet he still had enough time to raise seven children (three became physicians, one a lawyer and three hold an MBA). His productivity was exemplified in his prolific publication record: he authored and co-authored more than 300 peer-reviewed articles and more than 80 book chapters. He was the principal investigator for two National Cancer Institute funded grants before he passed away.

Paul achieved the highest level in the field of medical oncology and influenced many oncologists. He was widely acclaimed as the leader among leaders in oncology. His influence was not restricted to North America, but reached the Far East and other parts of the world. From 1985 to 1989, in addition to all his other duties, he was in charge of the Medical Oncology Training Program in Tai-

wan, which established medical oncology as a recognized subspecialty in Taiwan. The Training Program had a profound impact on the care of cancer patients, as well as on oncology research in Taiwan. He was visiting professor at many famous institutions round the globe, he was in Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Europe, South Africa, and many other countries. Before he died, he was visiting professor at the National University of Singapore, trying to help establish a university oncology program. He received numerous awards and honors, such as the Lasker Award in 1972, the Rosenthal Award in 1977 and the Medal of Honor for Clinical Research from the American Cancer Society. He was on the editorial boards of many oncology journals and publications. Until his death, he was editor-in-chief of *Oncology*.

Paul was a multitalented and highly gifted person who had been especially blessed by God. He didn't have much time to play golf but, like everything else he did, he played

it excellently: he was a golfer with a single-digit handicap. He was a very proud father, grandfather and loving husband as well as a compassionate human being. Those who have had the opportunity to work with him and benefit from his advice would unanimously agree that he was a man of principle, discipline and precision. He led a simple and scholarly life. His wisdom reflected in the concise presentation of his work and the advice he gave to others.

Paul Carbone, MD was a true role model: a top clinician and scientist as well as a leader in education and administration. It will be very difficult for anyone to fill his shoes. His motto was to work hard and play hard. He passed away while playing golf, his favorite pastime. His passing is a great loss to us all, and all of us in oncology are greatly indebted to him.

Dr. Alex Chang

Johns Hopkins – NUH International Medical Centre