



March 4, 2024

C. Norman Coleman, January 24, 1945 – March 1, 2024 In Memoriam



The NCRP family is deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Norm Coleman. We lost a brilliant colleague, a compassionate physician, and a caring friend. Norm will be remembered for his accomplishments, which are legion, but even more so for his inspirational character and mentoring that touched the lives of so many.

His stellar education and trustworthy personality catapulted Norm into national leadership roles. He received his MD from Yale University, and his internship and residency in internal medicine was at the University of California, San Francisco. He completed fellowships in medical oncology at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and in radiation oncology at Stanford University. Norm was Board certified in Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology, and Radiation Oncology. Between 1978 and 1985 he was a tenured faculty member in Radiology and Medicine at Stanford, and then moved to Harvard Medical School as Professor and Chair of the Joint Center for Radiation Therapy, 1985 to 1999. In 1999, he joined NCI.

Since 1999, Norm was Associate Director, Radiation Research Program and Senior Investigator, with a molecular radiation therapeutics laboratory in the Radiation Oncology Branch of NCI. Since 2004 he was a Senior Medical Advisor in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His focus was on radiological and nuclear preparedness and planning. He participated at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo during the Japan nuclear reactor disaster in March 2011.

He was Fellow of: American College of Physicians, Radiology, American Society of Radiation Oncology, and Clinical Oncology. His honors include: Gold Medal, American Society for Radiation Oncology (2005), Service to America Homeland Security Medal (2011), Radiation Research Society Failla Award (2016), University of Vermont, Doctor of Science Honoris Causa for contributions to society (2015), National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship Ellen Lewis Stovall Patient Centered Cancer Care Award (2018), NCRP's Warren Sinclair Medal (2019), and D.A. Henderson Lifetime Achievement Award (2023). Dr. Coleman was the author of *Understanding Cancer: A Patient's Guide to Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment* and authored or co-authored over 300 peer-reviewed articles.

Norm was elected to the Council in 2016. He was a member of Program Area Committee 3 on Nuclear and Radiological Security and Safety and WARP (Where Are the Radiation Professionals?). He served on the NCRP 2017 Annual Meeting Program Committee. Norm was confidant to NCRP's Fifth President (John D. Boice, Jr.) and they spoke frequently, including during a *house call* when John was recovering from back surgery. In 2011 they were in Japan for discussions on the Fukushima earthquake and incident and discovered that in 1974 they were both in Afghanistan with their wives and experienced the shaking of another earthquake! Perhaps most often they talk about the WARP initiative and the need for radiologists to be trained and engaged in radiation biology and epidemiology for national leadership roles. Norm's love of life, of people, and of service was infectious!

Amidst this avalanche of professional activities, Norm found time last year to qualify for the Ironman 70.3 World Championships! He had a lifelong commitment to mentoring which continued with his development of the International Cancer Expert Corps (ICEC), a global health nonprofit with an aim to provide cancer cures to people in underserved communities around the world. In lieu of flowers, Norm's family would be grateful for donations to ICEC — <https://www.iceccancer.org/donate/>. There is nothing more inspirational than a life fully lived!