

William F. Morgan
1952 – 2015



Dr. William Morgan, an eminent scientist and the Director of Radiation Biology and Biophysics in the Biological Sciences Division of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, died Friday evening, November 13th 2015 at the Kadlec Medical Center near his home in Richland, Washington of a pulmonary embolism. He was 62.

Dr. Morgan, or Bill to many of his friends, was a leading figure in the study of the biological effects of ionizing radiation and had a distinguished career that spanned over 35 years. Born and raised in Christchurch, New Zealand, Bill received his bachelor degree in botany and his master and doctoral degree in cytogenetics from the University of Canterbury. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Bill joined the faculty there and later obtained a joint appointment at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) in 1995. In 1999, he left California to become Director of the Radiation Oncology Research Laboratory at the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore. In 2008, Bill moved to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and took on his leadership role until his untimely death. He held joint appointments in the Department of Radiation Oncology at both Oregon Health Science University and the University of Washington.

Dr. Morgan's research focused on elucidating the long-term biological effects of ionizing radiation and, more specifically, on the study of low dose effects on human health. He was highly regarded by his peers and had received many awards and recognitions. He served on many national and international advisory boards. Dr. Morgan was conferred with an honorary D.Sc. degree from his Alma mater in 2003 and was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2010.

Bill is survived by his wife Marianne Sowa, his ex-wife Rosemary Wong, his children Michelle and Nicholas Morgan and Leyla Resat, his parents Ngaire and William Morgan, his siblings Helen Thawley and David and Paul Morgan, and his beloved nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Edward John Morgan.

A mass in honor of Dr. Morgan was given at St. Francis of Assisi in Stoke, Nelson, New Zealand. There will be no services in Richland. A formal service will be held in New Zealand at a later date and a recognition of Bill will be held at the 2016 Radiation Research Society meeting.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Bill's name at <http://radres.site-ym.com/donations/>