



April 14, 2021

Robert L. Brent, October 6, 1927 – February 24, 2021 In Memoriam

Robert L. Brent passed away on February 24, 2021 at the age of 93. Bob was admired and loved by his colleagues. He was the consummate clinical scientist who radiated compassion, exuded excellence in teaching and leadership, and demanded uncompromising research rigor. Of his countless accomplishments, Bob was perhaps most proud of his monumental experimental work on pregnancy and radiation that led to a career in counseling women and men of reproductive age on the risk of exposures during and before pregnancy. He unquestionably saved countless numbers of lives and changed family histories. His association with NCRP spanned nearly 50 y and he will always remain a gentle giant upon whose shoulders the Council was built!



He was the Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics, Radiology and Pathology, Louis and Bess Stein Professor of Pediatrics; Professor of Radiation Biology; and Professor of Pathology and Anatomy at Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. He was the Director, Division of Developmental Biology, Alfred I duPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, Delaware from 1989 to 1992. He Chaired the Pediatric Department for 30 y, starting in 1965. Dr. Brent received his AB, MD, and a PhD in Radiation Biology and Embryology from the University of Rochester.

Dr. Brent was first elected to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) in 1973 and became a Distinguished Emeritus Member in 1997. He was a member of the 1992 Budget and Finance Committee and served as Chair from 1993 to 1996. Dr. Brent was Chair of the 1997 Annual Meeting Program Committee, an Annual Meeting speaker in 2014, and in 2006 presented the 30th Lauriston S. Taylor Lecture entitled “Fifty Years of Scientific Investigation: The Importance of Scholarship and the Influence of Politics and Controversy.”

Dr. Brent was Chair of NCRP Scientific Committee (SC) 4-4 that published Report No. 174, *Preconception and Prenatal Radiation Exposure: Health Effects and Protective Guidance* in 2013; and a member of SC 76 that published NCRP Report No. 54, *Medical Radiation Exposure of Pregnant and Potentially Pregnant Women* in 1977.

Dr. Brent received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the University of Rochester, Robley Evans Commemorative Medal from the Health Physics Society, the John Scott Award, three teaching awards from national organizations, and the Warkany Lectureship from the Teratology Society of which he was a founding member. He was member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences. He maintained funding for his laboratory for over 40 y and made many scientific discoveries, publishing over 500 manuscripts, several books, and was the editor of *Teratology* for 17 y.

Together with his wife, Lillian, Dr. Brent was a benefactor to Thomas Jefferson University, University of Rochester, and Jewish charities. He and Lillian established several endowed positions at Jefferson, several scholarships for medical students, and an endowment for Alumni giving. The University of Rochester School of Medicine White Coat Ceremony is named in their honor.

Dr. Brent is predeceased by his wife of 71 y, Lillian, and a son, James. He is survived by his children David, Lawrence and Deborah and their spouses; 11 grandchildren; and 18 great grandchildren.