Giulio (Dan) J. D'Angio, MD (1922–2018)

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Giulio (Dan) J. D'Angio, MD, a founding member of the Society for Pediatric Radiology and professor emeritus of radiation oncology at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, died peacefully at his home on Sept. 14, 2018, at age 96.

Born to an Italian family, Dr. D'Angio was raised in Brooklyn, NY, and attended public schools in Brooklyn and Mount Vernon. He earned an undergraduate degree from Columbia University and went on to Harvard Medical

School, where he said he was the only Italian-American in his class. He served in WWII in the Pacific and returned — after a brief stint in Florence, Italy, to study classics — to train at Boston City Hospital in radiology. He practiced radiation therapy at Boston City Hospital and later joined Dr. Sidney Farber at Boston Children's Hospital treating children and adults with cancer. One of his most important contributions was demonstrating how radiation therapy and chemotherapy can act synergistically. He was responsible for some of the first cures of metastatic Wilms tumor in children.

Dan was a humble and extraordinarily kind person. He brought people from different disciplines together and founded the National Wilms Tumor Study Group in 1969. He was very aware of the potential harmful effects of radiation therapy and helped organize the first randomized clinical trials eliminating unnecessary treatment. He learned from Dr. Farber that families of a sick child require total care and advocated for addressing the psychosocial and economic burdens to the family unit as a whole.

When the Society for Pediatric Radiology was founded in 1958, Dr. D'Angio joined Drs. John Hope and John Kirkpatrick from Philadelphia as well as luminaries such as Drs. John Caffey, Edward Neuhauser, Frederic Silverman, Edward Singleton, John Holt, Theodore Keats and others at the first meeting in Washington, DC. In the 1960s Dr. D'Angio was recruited to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania, where he collaborated with pediatric oncologist Dr. Audrey Evans. Working with surgeon-in-chief Dr. C. Everett Koop, they described the remarkable spontaneous regression of an identifiable subset of neuroblastoma in infants and together developed a staging system that is largely in use today. Dan and Audrey were a dedicated and inseparable team and just before Dan's 80th birthday they became husband and wife.

Dr. D'Angio was a co-founder of several important medical societies dedicated to childhood cancer research and treatment. He served as president of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology in 1986–1987 and mentored hundreds of

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young investigators worldwide. He published well over 500 manuscripts, many of which are classics in their field.

Along with his many prestigious professional achievements, Dan was internationally known as a true gentleman — kind, polite and always most interested in what others had to say. His family always came first. He was predeceased by his first wife, with whom he was blessed with two sons, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He spent his final years with Audrey at his Center City Philadelphia apartment overlooking Rittenhouse Square. He was a voracious reader and had broad interests in art, history, music and culture. He loved meeting and talking to people and especially took great satisfaction in hearing from former patients about their lives, including new babies.

A leader, pioneer, innovator, scholar and true gentleman, Dr. D’Angio was one of the last of the “giants” and will be greatly missed.

Acknowledgments Based on Maris J, Perilongo G (2019) Giulio D’Angio, MD, 1922–2018. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 66:e27508, with permission.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflicts of interest None

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