

Announcement from Thomas J. Montine, MD, PhD, Alvord Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Pathology, University of Washington

April 2, 2012

It is with profound sadness that I inform you that Nelson Fausto, MD, died today after a long struggle with multiple myeloma. Nelson touched so many around the world in his roles as teacher, mentor, leader, and friend. We are deeply fortunate to have had Nelson as our colleague at the University of Washington. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine what our personal and professional lives will be like without his cheerfulness, generosity, grace, and gentle insistence on excellence.

Nelson was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he graduated from Rio Branco College (B.S.) and then the University of Sao Paulo (M.D.). Following internship and fellowship, Nelson briefly joined the faculty at the University of Sao Paulo before starting his illustrious career in the United States. Nelson joined the Department of Pathology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, first as a fellow and then as faculty for five years before relocating to Brown University as an Assistant Professor of Medical Science (Pathology). Nelson held many important positions at Brown including Director of the Cancer Biology Program, Deputy Director of the Roger Williams/Brown University Cancer Center, Asa Messer Professor, and founding Chair of the Department of Pathology. The University of Washington was enormously fortunate to recruit Nelson and Ann De Lancey, his beloved wife, to join our faculty in 1994 when he became the third Chair of the Department of Pathology. During his tenure as Department Chair at UW, Nelson grew the size and improved the quality of our clinical, teaching, and research programs, achieving for the department the prestigious position of most highly NIH-funded Department of Pathology in the United States. Nelson's own highly respected research program focused on liver development and regeneration, stem cells and hepatic cell lineages, hepatocellular carcinoma, and Hepatitis C virus. Nelson won many awards and honors for teaching, research, and leadership in Pathology; indeed, there are few awards that he has not received. The most notable of these awards are the Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (2009), the Arnaldo Vieira de Carvalho Medal from the University of Sao Paulo (2009), the Gold-Headed Cane Award from the American Society for Investigative Pathology (2010), and the Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Pathology Chairs (2012). However, he was most proud of the thousands of us around the globe who learned from Robbins and Cotran, Pathologic Basis of Disease (Kumar, Abbas, and Fausto; Elsevier), the hundreds of medical students who year after year selected him for teaching awards, the thirty-one post-doctoral fellows who launched their careers in his laboratory, and the twenty-two graduate students who received their Ph.D. under his mentorship.

Nelson Fausto is survived by his wife, Ann De Lancey, his brothers, Boris Fausto of Brazil and Ruy Fausto of France and Brazil, his nephews, Sérgio and Carlos, and niece, Luisa, and three great-nephews, Miguel, Felipe, and Antonio.

Information about a memorial service will be shared at a later time, and the UW Medicine Pathology website (<http://pathology.washington.edu/PathNews/news/?id=379>) will be kept updated. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the University of Washington Foundation for the Nelson Fausto and Ann De Lancey Endowment for Native American Education or the Fausto and De Lancey Endowed Professorship in Pathology. For questions please contact UW Advancement at 206-543-6865 or visit the Advancement website: <http://www.washington.edu/giving/browse-funds>.

Nelson Fausto, physician, scientist, and leader of Pathology, will be remembered most for his unwavering support and mentorship to investigators in all stages of their career. The many of us who have benefited greatly from his generosity and commitment now strive to follow his example.

Thomas J. Montine, MD, PhD
Alvord Professor and Interim Chair