Bethesda, MD, January 29, 2014 - ASIP acknowledges the passing of longtime ASIP member, Douglas R. Shanklin, MD.

Dr. Douglas Radford Shanklin AB, MD, FRSM (Fellow of the Royal Medical Society, UK) of Falmouth, MA, and Washington, DC, died after a short battle with cancer on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC. He was born in Camden, New Jersey on November 25, 1930; grew up in Washington where he helped build a number of Appalachian Trail cabins as an Eagle Scout. He later attended Syracuse University, then entered the State University of New York’s medical school, having ranked first in the New York State’s Regents Exam. He did his Residency at Duke University in Pathology and Obstetrics and, after a 2-year stint in the Navy, completed a Fellowship in Pathology at the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse in 1958.

He began as a research trainee/junior investigator at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole in 1955. In April of 1956 he married Virginia McClure; they had five children: Elizabeth, Leigh Dabney, Lois Virginia (Sandy), John Carter, and Eleanor Shanklin Truex. He became a Senior Investigator, a Corporation Member from 1970-2013, and served on the Marine Resources Center committee, including Chairman of the Resources Planning Committee in 1995. He did extensive research into the diseases of neonates, expectant mothers, and women’s health, focusing on hyaline membrane disease, oxygen toxicity, and silicone breast implant issues, publishing well over 500 medical research papers and articles, as well as four books on topics as varied as prenatal nutrition to Parkinson’s disease, and continued to publish and present papers until recently. He also served as the Chairman of the National Advisory Panel, Women’s and Infant’s Program Evaluation Study for the US Department of Agriculture, 1979-1986. A former student, now colleague, said that he was instrumental in creating the field of fetal and neonatal pathology.

As a Professor of Pathology, he taught hundreds of Medical students, Residents, and Fellows at the State University of New York, the University of Florida (Associate Professor), where he won the “Best Teacher” award, and at the University of Chicago (Pathologist-in-Chief at Chicago Lying-In Hospital). In 1983 began a long association with the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. While Professor of Pathology and Obstetrics and Gynecology there, he won the SGAEC “Excellence in Teaching” Award from the College of Graduate Medical Sciences in 2002. He also won the Physician’s Recognition Award in Continuing Medical Education, American Medical Association, 1969, 1972, 1975, 1980, 1983, 1986, 1989, 1992, and 1995.

He held eleven Visiting Professorships, seven of which were outside the United States, and was a Fellow in the Royal Medical Society (FRSM) of London, UK. He became Professor Emeritus of Placental and Perinatal Pathology at UT in 2008. He was awarded the first Enid Gilbert-Barness Prize in Pediatric Pathology from the Society for Pediatric Pathology in 2010 and gave the inaugural presentation of the Michelson Lecture Series at UT in 2008. He was currently active as a medical malpractice expert witness and forensic pathology consultant, and had been instrumental in overturning several death row convictions in Florida. He served as a study section member for the National Institute of Health, as well as serving as an editorial board member or reviewer for at least fourteen medical journals and a co-founder of the Journal of Reproductive Medicine. His last public lecture, titled “How Pathology Informs Biology and..."
“Vice Versa” was presented in Falmouth, MA in August of 2013. He firmly believed in the collegiality of medicine and belonged to many organizations dedicated to the advancement of science, medicine and pathology, including (but by no means limited to) American Association for the Advancement of Science, the AMA, ACOG, the American Society of Investigative Pathology, the International Academy of Pathology, and the Society for Pediatric Pathology, which he helped found.

A lifelong opera and theater-goer, he fostered an enjoyment of Gilbert & Sullivan, live musical theater and opera among his family. He was a trustee and member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Opera, a member of the Hugo’s Companions of the Chicago chapter of the Baker Street Irregulars, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the Washington chapter of the American Chemical Society, the Cosmos Club in Washington and a life member of the Navy League. He traveled extensively, for pleasure and to attend and present at medical conferences throughout the USA and in places as varied as mainland China, the USSR, Antarctica twice, and throughout Latin America, where he delivered his lectures in Spanish.

He is survived by his wife and three children, Elizabeth, John Carter and Eleanor, and grandchildren Laura Anne Truex, Robert Gregory Truex and Johnathan Douglas Truex. Two of his children, Leigh Dabney and Lois Virginia (Sandy) predeceased him. Services were held in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Donations can be made to The Michelson Lectures, Michelson Endowment, UTHSC Development Office, 62 South Dunlap, Memphis, TN 38163.

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