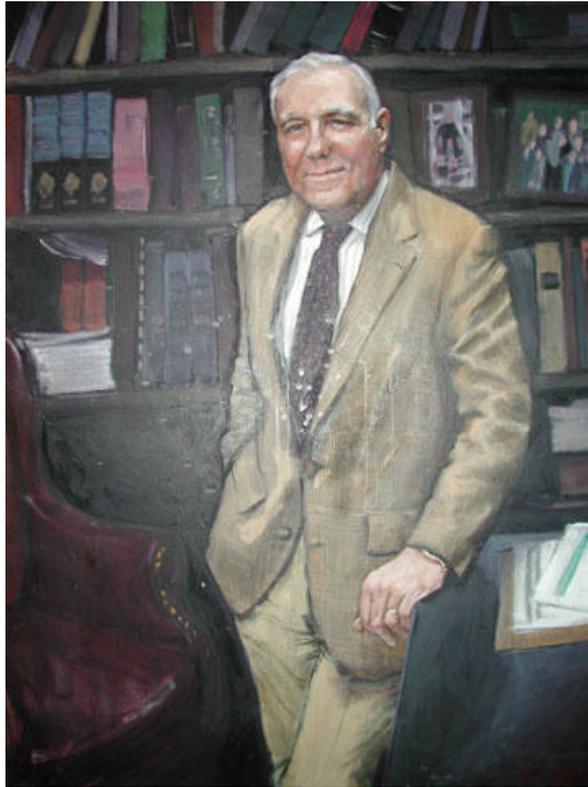


**Professor Dante G. Scarpelli, M.D., Ph.D.  
1927 –1998**



Professor Dante G. Scarpelli, M.D., Ph.D., Magerstadt Professor, and Chairman of Pathology at Northwestern University Medical School (1976 to 1996) died Saturday, September 12 of complications due to esophageal cancer. Dr. Scarpelli's work is known to many of us and his contributions to the biomedical literature span more than four decades during which his influence and example as a scientist, teacher and academic leader have motivated and sustained new generations of researchers now working throughout the country committed to illuminating the biology of disease.

Professor Scarpelli was born in Padua, Italy in 1927. He was appropriately born in Padua; a city known for its contributions to academic medicine, including among its teachers and students Vesalius, Harvey, and Santorio. Also a fitting birthplace as Padua was the home of Morgagni, Professor of Anatomy and author of the "Seats and Causes of Diseases" establishing the paradigm of clinical-pathological correlation.

Professor Scarpelli received his Bachelor of Science degree from Baldwin-Wallace College. He received his Master of Science, M.D., and his Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State University. He pursued postdoctoral studies in the laboratory of A.G. Pearse at the Postgraduate Medical School, London. He then completed his pathology training and rose quickly through the academic ranks at Ohio State University achieving the rank of Professor in 1965. The following year he was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pathology and Oncology at the University of Kansas where he served with distinction until Northwestern University Medical School was lucky enough to convince him to become chairman of the Department of Pathology

there. His academic leadership roles also included serving as Dean for Faculties and Academic Affairs at the University of Kansas from 1973-1976 and as Director of the Northwestern University Cancer Center from 1987-1989. He served on the editorial boards of 12 prestigious peer reviewed journals including *Cancer Research*, *American Journal of Pathology*, the *FASEB Journal*, and *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine*. He was an influential member of many scholarly societies including the New York Academy of Sciences, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, and the American Association of University Professors. He repeatedly served on important National Committees dedicated to the research mission including the Pathology B, Carcinogenesis, and Chemical Pathology Study Sections of the NIH, National Academy of Sciences Committees, the National Research Council Committee on Animal Models (as chair), and the Advisory Committee of the Registry of Comparative Pathology (as chair).

Professor Scarpelli received many awards during his career including the Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Baldwin-Wallace College. An award he was especially proud of was the Gold Medal awarded by the city of Padua in 1980 for "Paduans Who Have Honored Italy." His lifelong contributions to cancer research were honored at the Third Annual Schwappe Colloquium of the Lurie Cancer Center of Northwestern University in 1992.

He published more than 130 peer reviewed articles, many scientific abstracts and provided insightful commentary and instruction in chapters of widely read books, including Anderson's *Pathology* and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

Professor Scarpelli's first paper was on granulation tissue and it marked the beginning of a career long interest in oxygen based cell injury and oxygen metabolism during repair. He repeatedly returned to the study of experimental carcinogenesis as a model of growth beginning with early papers on cervical carcinoma. He was responsible for the precise localization of a number of important dehydrogenases and nucleoside triphosphate. He published authoritatively on topics ranging from rhodopsin to idiopathic recurrent rhabdomyolysis. He and his colleagues discovered the mammalian equivalent of homeotic regeneration (transdifferentiation) showing that pancreatic tissue could regenerate as liver tissue. He continued studies until very recently on the molecular mechanisms of pancreatic carcinogenesis. His experiments have never been limited to single experimental systems or species. Working with rat or frog or rainbow trout; using tissue culture, electron microscopy, or molecular biology he always let the question define the experiment. In his pursuit of original knowledge he never allowed himself to be trapped by systems as Turgenev warned Tolstoy (quoted by Daniel Boorstin), "The people who bind themselves to systems are those who are unable to encompass the whole truth and try to catch it by the tail; a system is like the tail of truth; but truth is like a lizard, it leaves its tail in your fingers and runs away knowing full well that it will grow a new one in a twinkling."

Those of us who were lucky enough to count him as a friend and colleague admire his accomplishments and will always be grateful for his inspiration as a model of academic life.

Dante was much loved and he will be greatly missed.

**Philip M. Iannaccone, M.D., D.Phil.**  
George M. Eisenberg Professor of Developmental Pediatrics

Department of Pediatrics and the  
Children's Memorial Institute for Education and Research

Northwestern University Medical School and  
Children's Memorial Hospital  
Chicago, IL

October 6, 1998