

**Ramzi S. Cotran, MD, 67**



Chair, Department of Pathology  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Chair, Department of Pathology  
Children's Hospital Boston  
Frank B. Mallory Professor of Pathology  
Harvard Medical School

**BOSTON** — Dr. Ramzi S. Cotran, chairman of both the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Children's Hospital Boston departments of pathology and the Frank B. Mallory Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, died of cancer on October 23 at his home in Brookline, Massachusetts. He was 67.

Widely acknowledged as the foremost academic pathologist in the United States and mentor of many of his field's leading lights, Dr. Cotran was also the author of the leading pathology textbook in the world.

"Dr. Cotran has been a dynamic force in the growth of Brigham and Women's Hospital during the last two decades," said BWH president, Jeffrey Otten. "His work in vascular biology and commitment to building a top-rate research laboratory immeasurably impacted our hospital and the work of scientists throughout the world."

Dr. Cotran was born in Haifa, Palestine in 1932 and received his medical training at the American University of Beirut. He came to Boston to pursue post-graduate studies in pathology and nephrology. Dr. Cotran quickly established himself in his field with various positions at Harvard Medical School and at Boston City Hospital's Mallory Institute of Pathology.

In 1974, Dr. Cotran was named pathologist-in-chief at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. He served in the position for 27 years, transforming his department from a small clinical service to a distinguished academic department, while maintaining the highest standards of patient care. Today, the department shaped by Dr. Cotran, is generally considered the premier training program for pathology in this country.

"Dr. Cotran was an exemplary physician, scholar and scientist who forever will be remembered as giant in his field," said friend and colleague Frederick J. Schoen, MD, PhD. "But Ramzi's most important contribution to medicine was his teaching and his legacy will be the work of the talented pathologists around the world that he mentored."

Beginning in 1979, Dr. Cotran had been the primary author of Robbins *Pathologic Basics of Disease*, one of the most widely read of all textbooks in medicine. He also authored more than 180 research papers and served as the president or chairman of countless national and international professional organizations in pathology and nephrology.

In recognition of his leadership abilities, Dr. Cotran was appointed in 1990 to serve, concurrently with his Brigham and Women's position, as chairman of the pathology department at Children's Hospital Boston. In acknowledgement of his impact on academic pathology, last month a professorship at Harvard Medical School was established in his name.

This year, Dr. Cotran received both Harvard Medical School's Lifetime Achievement Award in Mentoring and the Dean's Award for Support and Advancement of Women Faculty. He also was an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Cotran is survived by his beloved wife, Kerstin; his son Paul, daughters Leila, Suzanne, and Nina; his sister Salwa and his brothers Tewfic, Rafic, and Shafic; and eleven grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are private.

Contributions may be made to:  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
332 North Lauderdale Street  
Memphis, TN 38105-2794