

In Memory of Eli Glatstein, MD

It is with great sorrow we share the news of Dr. Eli Glatstein's passing on Wednesday, November 27th. During the course of his esteemed career, Eli Glatstein, MD was dedicated both to his patients and the young physicians under his charge; he was a renowned authority who encouraged new ideas, new approaches and new thinking.

Dr. Glatstein's impressive career began after earning his medical degree from Stanford, and performing his post-graduate training at New York Hospital. He was drafted in 1965 and was awarded the Bronze Star for his efforts during active combat in the Republic of South Vietnam. Returning to academic life, Dr. Glatstein completed his Residency and Fellowship in Radiation Therapy at Stanford and started his teaching career as an Assistant Professor at Stanford in 1972. While he was at Stanford, he trained and collaborated with legends in the field of oncology including Henry Kaplan, MD and Saul Rosenberg, MD. He left Stanford to become head of the radiation oncology branch at the National Cancer Institute, where he mentored and assembled an incredible team of radiation oncologists who became leaders in the field today. An interest in particle therapy brought Dr. Glatstein to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where he served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology. He joined Penn in 1996 as Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology, where he had incredible influence over the past 23 years.

Dr. Glatstein's knowledge and leadership shaped Penn Radiation Oncology into the world-renowned department it is today, and he exemplified the core tenet of culture at Penn Medicine: Excellent is Standard. As a mentor, and giant in the field, Dr. Glatstein helped educate and inspire students far and wide, further extending his influence and legacy. The brilliant minds he helped shape included countless leaders in the field as well as a total of 26 chairs of academic departments that immediately trained under him or served with him as Junior Faculty.

Dr. Eli Glatstein's principle clinical interests were Lymphoma, Sarcomas, and Lung cancer. His was known for his contributions in each of those fields as well as for his work in Radiation Biology. In the last 30 years, his primary passion was Photodynamic Therapy, in which he led pioneering work on intraoperative PDT for pleural based malignant diseases. Although he is a radiation oncologist by training, he is likely best known as an outspoken champion of multi-disciplinary treatment for cancer.

"There are some things I'd like to be remembered for, work that I would be proud for someone to build upon; I'd like to be remembered as a compassionate and innovative physician, as well as a good teacher who could make people think"

--- Eli Glatstein, MD

Dr. Glatstein also enjoyed sharing the things in life he loved most with all those around him—food, movies, music, and baseball stats. In his spare time, he was a restaurant critic and movie reviewer. He was always happy to share his perspective and have a friend join him for a meal at his favorite restaurants.

Dr. Eli Glatstein's impact has been immeasurable, impactful and momentous. The field of radiation oncology has lost a great force in education, research and practice; however, his contributions, will live on through all of his trainees.

The video link below is from Dr. Glatstein's Professorship ceremony last year and encapsulates his impact and influence at Penn Medicine.

[Please click here to view the video.](#)