

## **The Passing of James F. Holland, MD, FASCO**

**TO:** All Faculty, Staff, and Students

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**DATE:** March 22, 2018

**RE:** The Passing of James F. Holland, MD, FASCO

We are saddened to inform you that our beloved colleague James F. Holland, MD, FASCO, passed away on Thursday, March 22. Dr. Holland was a legendary oncologist and a celebrated member of the Mount Sinai community.

An internationally renowned leader in the field of medical oncology, Dr. Holland helped pioneer the use of combination chemotherapies for the treatment of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. With this achievement, a disease though to be incurable was transformed into one with an 80 percent survival rate. For this groundbreaking work, Dr. Holland shared the Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award in 1972. In addition, Dr. Holland helped to develop the “7 + 3” regimen—a method used to treat acute myeloid leukemia around the world—and identified new treatments for testicular cancer and osteosarcoma.

Throughout his storied career, Dr. Holland influenced a multitude of students, colleagues, and staff with his intelligence, enthusiasm, and determination to effect change through clinical cancer

research. Dr. Holland's career at Mount Sinai began in 1973 when he established and chaired the Department of Neoplastic Diseases (later the Division of Neoplastic Diseases within the Department of Medicine). He also served as Chief of the Division of Medical Oncology from 1973-1993 and Director of The Derald H. Ruttenberg Cancer Center from 1985-1993. Most recently, he served as the Distinguished Professor of Neoplastic Diseases at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. There he continued his 20-year research into the underlying cause of breast cancer and regularly saw patients.

Dr. Holland's leadership was instrumental within multiple scientific associations. He served as president of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Additionally, he co-founded the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer. His editorial collaboration with the late Emil Frei III, MD, in *Holland-Frei Cancer Medicine* has spawned nine editions and remains a premier reference for those who treat cancer patients. Dr. Holland received his medical degree at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A funeral service will be held on Sunday, March 25, at 10:30 am in Frank E. Campbell - The Funeral Chapel, at 1076 Madison Avenue, between 81st and 82nd Street. The family of Dr. Holland suggests that donations be made to [AORTIC](#), to support cancer control in Africa, or [AACR](#), to support the prevention of and a cure for cancer.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Holland's family, friends, and loved ones. He will be sincerely missed.