

Dr. Johns' illustrious career and tremendous contributions to Medical Physics and Cancer Treatment are well known and were recognized with accolades and numerous honors and awards nationally and internationally. His invention of the cobalt unit, his over 200 scientific publications, his textbook "The Physics of Radiology" which he wrote jointly with Jack Cunningham, his long and successful leadership of Medical Physics at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, his leadership role in national and international medical physics organizations, his firm dealings with hospital administrators, and his tough yet fair attitude toward students are legendary and clearly qualify him for his recent induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. If there was a global Medical Physics Hall of Fame, Dr. Johns would be the first inductee. He will forever remain a giant among his peers in the profession of medical physics.

Dr. Johns also made an important and lasting contribution to the Canadian society through his teaching efforts. He had a direct and strong influence on the careers of over 100 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Students certainly learned about physics and physics research from Dr. Johns, but the physics knowledge that he passed on to his students was far less important than the values and code of behavior that he instilled in his students. His personality traits and professional ethics had a tremendous influence on his young students. One could not help but admire and learn from Dr. Johns' strong will, his honesty and ethical behavior, his no-nonsense approach to solving problems, his love of his family and respect for his colleagues, as well as his love and respect for his country and his institution.

Dr. Johns' students are spread around the world; however, most of them chose to practice their profession in Canada and a large number of them have a teaching career in their own right. It is safe to say that most contemporary medical physicists in Canada, either directly or indirectly, trace their professional roots to Dr. Johns. And this is the real legacy that Dr. Johns is leaving behind. His enormous positive influence on the medical physics and radiation oncology professions will be felt for years to come.

Dr. Johns has had a full and extremely productive life and his contributions to his chosen field of medical physics are truly outstanding. Those who knew him owe him an enormous gratitude for who he was, for what he did with his talents, and for the way he touched and influenced their lives.