

Tributes to Richard F. Bakemeier, MD

Richard E. Gallagher

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To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dr. Richard F. Bakemeier had a long and distinguished career in medicine, which included notable contributions to medical science, patient care, and cancer education. In the course of his career, he has played many roles including physician, teacher, scientist, mentor, leader, lobbyist, editor-in-chief, and as a persistent constructive critic of the status quo in cancer education. This issue of the *Journal of Cancer Education* is dedicated to Dr. Bakemeier in recognition of

the many contributions he has made to the field of cancer education. As a part of this recognition, long-standing professional friends and colleagues of Dr. Bakemeier were asked to share with fellow members of the American Association for Cancer Education their thoughts on the contributions Dick has made to cancer education, some of their memorable interactions with Dick, and the personal and professional qualities that he brought to his work. The JCE received a unanimous and enthusiastic response to this request reflecting the high esteem with which Dr. Bakemeier continues to be regarded. There are clear themes that run through these personal observations and comments but rather than summarizing and commenting on those themes, I think the personal comments are best appreciated by allowing them to speak for themselves. The JCE thanks each of you who took the time to provide thoughtful comments. All of the contributions have been utilized; in some cases, due to the length of the submitted material, it was necessary to shorten the original submission.

R. E. Gallagher (✉)
Division of Medical Education, Wayne State University Medical
School, Department of Family Medicine and
Public Health Science Detroit,
Michigan 48201, USA
e-mail: rgallagh@med.wayne.edu