

AMP Mourns The Loss of Constance (Connie) A. Griffin, MD



AMP mourns the loss of Constance (Connie) A. Griffin, MD, who passed away January 8, 2012 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Connie was an oncologist, clinical cytogeneticist, researcher in pancreatic cancer and a long time AMP member and member of the Solid Tumors Subdivision.

Dr. Griffin earned her MD at the University of Chicago, completed a residency in internal medicine at the Indiana University Medical Center, and a medical oncology fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as a. Following a postdoctoral fellowship in cytogenetics at the University of Pennsylvania School of

Medicine, Dr. Griffin joined the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions as a faculty member rising to Professor of Pathology and Oncology, and Associate Professor of Medicine as well as directing the Molecular Pathology Division of the Department of Pathology. Her research focused on the cytogenetic abnormalities of solid tumors. As a leader in this field, Dr. Griffin was well-known for her impactful work in pancreatic cancer, pediatric tumors and sarcomas.

Connie mentored and inspired many residents, postdocs, and colleagues in genetics and molecular pathology. She spearheaded the adoption of new molecular cytogenetic methods, the identification of specific cancer -related genes at chromosome breakpoints, and established the cancer risk assessment program at Johns Hopkins to counsel patients with familial cancer syndromes.

Knowing she had pancreatic cancer never changed her. Connie had a great love of nature and the outdoors and was an avid birder, pursuing more than 300 species on weekend trips this past year. She continued to love her family, friends and co-workers. She took pride in helping her patients and in her lab's discoveries. She thought unfailingly of others, but never felt sorry for herself.

Connie is survived by her husband, Allan C. Spradling, PhD of the Carnegie Institution, and their daughters, Emily (20) and Katherine (18). Those who wish to honor Connie's life may do so with a contribution to Pancreatic Cancer Research payable to Johns Hopkins University and mailed to Ralph H. Hruban, M.D, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, 401 North Broadway, Weinberg 2242, Baltimore, MD 21231. MEMO: In Honor of Constance Griffin.