



Dr. John M. Cameron

August 9, 1940 - July 3, 2014

Dr. John M. Cameron, the Founder, Chairman, and President of ProCure Treatment Centers, the country's leading provider of proton-based cancer treatment, died on Thursday in Bloomington, Indiana. He was 73.

Dr. Cameron, a nuclear physicist, was a pioneer in developing proton therapy as an alternative to traditional radiation treatment for advanced cancer. At ProCure, he oversaw the development and operation of four proton therapy centers in the United States that currently treat thousands of patients annually. Dr. Cameron also established the ProCure Cancer Foundation, which provides financial aid to enable pediatric patients to travel with their families to receive this less invasive form of cancer treatment.

Prior to founding ProCure, Dr. Cameron had a long and distinguished career in nuclear physics, medical technology, research and administration. He received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1967, completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington, and then joined the physics faculty at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. For nearly 20 years, he served as Director

of the Indiana University Cyclotron Facility while also serving as Professor of Physics at Indiana University. He played a pivotal role in creating the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute at Indiana University in 2004. Dr. Cameron was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society in 1987, and received the inaugural Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award from Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington in 2012.

Dr. Cameron was born in Coleraine, Northern Ireland to Mathew and Jean (Gilmore) Cameron, and was raised on his family's farm in Northern Ireland. He received his undergraduate degree in 1962 from Queens University, Belfast. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Cathleen Cameron of Bloomington; son Kevin Cameron and his wife Amy Busch of San Francisco; daughter Caitlin Denker and her husband Chris of Naperville, Illinois; sisters Linda (James) Beattie, Claire (Arthur) Kee, and brother Gilmore (Lorna) Cameron all of Ireland. He is also survived by his four beloved grandchildren, Sean and Ian Denker, and Emma and Oliver Cameron.

A celebration of life is planned for later this year, and in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Cardinal Stage Company in Bloomington, Indiana.

Tribute Wall

PE

“ Dear Cathleen, Kevin and Caitlin with families, we are very sorry to hear the sad news. John and all of you meant very much to us as dear friends since our time in Bloomington. Warm and generous are the first words that come to our minds when thinking of John. We have many fond memories; once when visiting us in Stockholm, when we asked ourselves what to toast for, John said: "Let us toast to friendship!" Our thoughts go to you, much love, Pia & Svante, Vendela, Camilla & Eyvind.

Pia Thörngren Engblom - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

RR

“ Dear Cathleen, Caitlin, and Kevin:

If John had any weakness of significance, I couldn't see it. Intelligent, common sense, sense of humor, insight, and family person. Thank God most every return I did for him had a refund. So glad our paths crossed.

*Yours very truly,
Bob Ralston*

Robert Ralston - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

DA

“ Dear family and friends of Dr. Cameron, thank you for allowing me to express my condolences for your loss. Bloomington has been so fortunate that this visionary, kind and witty man decided to make his family's home here and to launch an effort from Bloomington which would bring hope and better health to so many throughout the country. John gave of himself in so many ways. I was honored in 2012 that he agreed to accept my invitation on behalf of the City of Bloomington to serve on the Advisory Committee for the master plan effort of the downtown Tech Park redevelopment. Through the unfettered input and guidance that he gave us during that process, John will continue to shape Bloomington's future for decades to come. I also greatly look forward to the good changes yet to come from those he inspired throughout his amazing life. He will be missed, and you all are in our thoughts.

Danise Alano-Martin - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

AR

“ We send our condolences to Cathleen, and all the members of the Cameron family.
It was always a great joy to see John at so many wonderful theater evenings.
We will miss him.
Ann and Richard Burke

ann and richard burke - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

JA

“ Dear Cathleen, Caitlin, Kevin and Family,
Henry and I are so sorry for your loss. We were so happy to get to know John and Cathleen during our time in Bloomington. He was kind and hospitable during my last visit to you last summer when he was not feeling at all well. He was a kind, warm and generous person. You had a wonderful life with John, and he will be sorely missed.

Jo Ann and Henry Fuchs

Jo Ann Fuchs - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

RI

“ To the family and friends of John Cameron,
I offer my sincere condolences on your great loss. I had the pleasure to carry out an experiment at IUCF (CE-25) when John was Director in the early 1990's and the lab was a great place for my group to work. As fellow, Irish-born, academic, nuclear experimental physicists trained in this country, John and I had quite a bit in common and we both liked to chat. Although from opposite ends of the island of Ireland, we liked to discuss physics, whiskey, and family. I fondly remember our conversations.

Richard Milner, MIT.

Richard Milner - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

TI

“ *John Cameron was an excellent nuclear physicist. But as a scientific administrator and entrepreneur he was extraordinary. We were lucky to have him as Director of the IU Cyclotron Facility, where his abilities in identifying talent and his far-sighted vision helped make IUCF one of the world's top facilities. When NSF decided to cease its support for IUCF's basic research capability, he identified proton therapy as a potential successor and started us on this path. He then founded ProCure. John was a strong and able leader and a good friend; he will be sorely missed.*

Tim Londergan - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

KE

“ To the family of John Cameron,

Please accept my condolences on the passing of John.

John was a good friend and had a huge influence on my career. When he became director of the cyclotron he saw potential in me, a graduate school dropout. He promoted me to group leader. Later he recognized the potential in an idea I had in collaboration with a group at the University of Louisville. He formed a company and we obtained a grant for digital x-ray imaging. Unfortunately the idea did not work out.

John continued to seek out help from me with a research project for his company ParTek. At one point John asked me for any ideas I might have about measuring radiation doses in the short intense proton dose delivered by a super conducting synchrocyclotron. I referred him to an engineer at the cyclotron. The engineer could not help. John came back to me and kept prodding me to come up with an idea. Thanks to his persistence I finally found a viable idea. This idea led to an NIH phase I grant and a possible phase II grant that is under consideration.

John's faith in me and his dogged pursuit for solutions has helped to foster my career and make my retirement from the cyclotron more pleasurable. He will be sorely missed.

Keith Solberg

Keith Solberg - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

RR

“ Dear Cathleen,

On behalf of the Department of Physics I offer you and your family my heartfelt condolences with the passing away of your husband. John was a smart, energetic and visionary member of our faculty, and I greatly admire him for the way he was able to combine science, medicine, entrepreneurship, and compassion, especially for pediatric patients. We will keep you in our thoughts, and will remember John for his breath of vision and his great passion to get things done.

Yours truly,

Rob de Ruyter

*Chair, Department of Physics
Indiana University Bloomington*

Rob de Ruyter - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

JU

“ Dear Cathleen and Family,

please except my sincere condolences. Although I didn't know him well, John always seemed the most genuinely courtly and generous of men. So many of us have much to thank and to remember him for.

In heartfelt sympathy

Julie and John Lawson

Julia Lawson - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

MA

“ *Great visionary and innovator. He started a cancer treatment revolution.*

Rest in Peace Dr.J!

Mark Rocque - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

VA

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I did not know Dr Cameron, but thank God for him everyday. Proton therapy saved my daughters life. What a gift he gave to many of us.*

Valerie Byers - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

DE

“ *Dear Cathleen, Caitlin, Kevin and your whole family,*

I'm so sorry John has passed away.

I appreciated the visits I had with you, Cathleen and with John, these last 2 months – thank you.

Some of my fondest memories were of our talks of grandchildren. He actually held my oldest grandson 13 years ago this month. I also had great joy in meeting Sean for the first time (outside of photos) on John and Cathleen's back deck when he was a toddler. The annual Christmas cards held photos of the year's activity with all four beloved grandchildren.

I'll be in touch and should you need me or my Kevin (we always said yours or mine, as we both have a Kevin and an Amy), please give us call.

*With heart-felt condolences,
Woody, Debbie, and Kevin Hueston*

Debbie Hueston - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM

AL

“ John was a wonderful physics colleague and a friend. John brought an incredible amount of energy into his directorship of the IU cyclotron facility as it transitioned from a national research facility to a proton therapy center. We both retired from IU around the same time but stayed in touch, getting together for lunch on a regular basis. These were always fun, talking about what each of us was up to, about physics and about politics. Even when John must have been going through some tough times, especially recently, he was consistently upbeat and good-humored. He will be missed by many.

Alex Dzierba - October 26, 2015 at 04:04 PM