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What will you tell her about screening mammography?

Many of your patients will hear about screening mammography through a program launched by the American Cancer Society and the American College of Radiology, and they may come to you with questions. What will you tell them?

We hope you'll encourage them to have a screening mammogram, because that, along with your regular breast examinations and their monthly self examinations, offers the best chance of early detection of breast cancer, a disease which will strike one woman in 10.

If you have questions about breast cancer detection for asymptomatic women, please contact us.
With the death of Ken Endicott on July 16, 1987, the field of cancer research lost an influential and distinguished figure.

Kenneth Milo Endicott (1916–1987) was director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) from 1960 to 1969, a period of rapid growth of the nation's attack on the cancer problem. After receiving the M.D. degree from the University of Colorado in 1939, he took an internship at a United States Public Health Service Hospital and there began an illustrious 38-year career with that agency. He joined the National Institutes of Health in 1942, where his first assignment was in the Laboratory of Experimental Pathology. Most notable of his many research achievements was his contribution to the elucidation of the role of folic acid in the synthesis of blood cells in the bone marrow. With the burgeoning of extramural NIH-supported research after World War II, Endicott was selected as Scientific Director of the Division of Research Grants in 1951.

Exciting advances in the use of folic acid antimetabolites in chemotherapy of cancer in the early 1950s led to his appointment to head the NCI's newly established Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center. He quickly organized and directed what became a major and very successful effort of the NCI. When Rod Heller left the directorship of the NCI in 1960 to head the Memorial Hospital-Sloan-Kettering Institute complex, Endicott succeeded him.

The Public Health Service recognized the need for additional biomedical scientists, and Endicott in 1969 was tapped to develop such a program as director of the Bureau of Health, Education and Manpower Training. In 1973 he was made administrator of the Health Resources Administration and in 1977 he retired from the Service. Thereafter he was executive officer of the American Association of Pathologists, an overseer of the Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology, and a partner in a Washington-based biomedical research consulting firm, Grupenhoff and Endicott.

Carl Baker, another NCI director, who was a longtime associate and warm friend, had this to say of Endicott: "He was... an outstanding administrator and public servant. He had high standards and shunned mediocrity,... was exemplary in competence, honesty and responsibility toward the public interest,... was an effective leader and had an infectious optimism that endeared him to his staff. He had a sense of humor that made it fun to work with him."

In his long public career Endicott earned a place of honor among the influential leaders in cancer research and administrations.

We are indebted to Carl Baker for assistance in the preparation of this legend and to the National Cancer Institute for the photograph.

S. W.