Randolph Lee Clark, M.D., has earned an illustrious reputation throughout the world as physician, surgeon, scientist, administrator, and tireless ambassador for cancer control. With enormous energy and dedication, he has spent a lifelong career extending advances in treatment and quality care to cancer patients everywhere.

Dr. Clark received his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of South Carolina in 1927. He received the M.D. degree from the University of Virginia in 1932, and, after postgraduate training in Washington, DC, Paris, and the Mayo Foundation and military service during World War II as Director of Surgical Research in the Medical Corps, United States Air Force, he was appointed the first full-time director and surgeon in chief of the M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in 1946.

For the next 32 years he guided the growth of what is now the University of Texas Cancer Center to a preeminent status among the world’s cancer centers, retiring as president in 1978. He is now President Emeritus and Professor of Surgery. The initial 234-bed hospital in the University of Texas Medical Center in Houston was opened in 1954. Subsequent expansions have made it one of the world’s largest, now occupying over 2.5 million square feet, including over 500 beds and space for numerous laboratory and clinical research programs. There are over 6500 employees, and the new R. Lee Clark Clinic treats approximately 2000 patients each day.

Clark’s numerous outside activities have included membership on councils, boards, and committees of the International Union Against Cancer, the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, the President’s Cancer Panel, and the American College of Surgeons.

Among his many awards are the Humanitarian and National Achievement Awards of the American Cancer Society, the Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Surgeons, the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award, and the Legion of Merit. He has received honorary degrees from five universities. Now 81, Clark continues to serve the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and maintains his residence and office near the Clark Clinic.

Pictured are Lee Clark and the new Clark Clinic building. The $41 million Clark Clinic, dedicated in October 1987, has a total square footage of 612,000 in 10 floors. It contains an Ambulatory Treatment Center, patient services, patient registration and admissions, and an educational conference center with a 300-seat auditorium and conference rooms. The photographs and information for the legend were kindly provided by Garth Nicolson.

Sidney Weinhouse