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This issue's cover features the 1990 recipients of the American Cancer Society's Medal of Honor. Gilbert H. Fletcher was born in Paris, France in 1911, received the M.D. degree from the University of Brussels in 1941, and migrated to the United States in 1942 as a resident at New York Hospital. After service in World War II, he was recruited by R. Lee Clark in 1948 as the founding Head of the Department of Radiotherapy of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and held this position until his retirement in 1981. Among his many contributions to radiation oncology are technological innovations, optimizations of combined modality treatments, and establishment of scientific foundations for radiotherapy based on clinical observation and analysis. He contributed to the design and construction of the first cobalt 60 therapy unit and the Fletcher-Suit-Decloos intracavitary applicator for gynecological treatment and pioneered in the development of electron beam therapy. Perhaps most important has been the concept of radiation treatment of subclinical disease of the surgical bed, the basis for conservative surgical strategy of local excision combined with radiation therapy to preserve tumor control with preservation of organ function.

Under his guidance, the Department of Radiotherapy has grown and flourished. He has trained over 300 in radiation oncology and has contributed over 350 articles and four books, among which is the Textbook of Radiotherapy, first published in 1966 and now in its fourth edition. He has received many honors, including honorary degrees from Hahnemann Medical College and the University of Granada, Spain.

Arthur James was born in Rhodesdale, Ohio, in 1912. He graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1937 with an M.D. and a Master of Medical Science degree. After internships at the University of Chicago Clinics and Duke University hospitals, he returned to The Ohio State University and completed a 3-year residency in surgery. He served with the United States Army during World War II and then spent two years on a fellowship in surgical oncology at Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital. In 1947, he returned to The Ohio State University as an assistant professor of surgery and there spent his entire professional career. He is now a Professor Emeritus and Medical Director Emeritus of the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Research Institute at The Ohio State University. He held the Wing Chair of Cancer Research and Therapy from 1977 to 1983. Among his professional activities, he was president of the Society of Head and Neck Surgeons, 1967–1968; President of the Society of Surgical Oncology, 1970–1971; and the first President of the National Federation of Oncologic Societies, 1973–1974. He has served the American Cancer Society for many years in many capacities and was its national president in 1972. One of his proudest achievements was the founding of the Arthur G. James Hospital and Research Institute. He served as its first Medical Director until 1989. He is the author and coauthor of many papers, primarily on head, neck, and breast cancer, and has contributed many advances in these fields. He has received many local, national, and international awards, including The Lucy Wortham James Award of the Society of Surgical Oncology, and in 1987 he received the Horatio Alger Award.

Gertrude Elion is familiar to the world community of medical science as the recipient, together with George Hitchings, of the 1988 Nobel Prize, as described in the cover legend of the February 1, 1989 issue of Cancer Research. She was cited for 40 years of stellar contributions to basic biological principles of chemotherapy, leading to discovery and development of 6-mercaptopurine, thioguanine, and other effective agents for treatment of human disease.

Pictured left to right are: Gilbert H. Fletcher, Gertrude Elion, and Arthur G. James.

Sidney Weinhouse