In Memory of Dr. Donald S. Childs, Jr.

By Luther W. Brady, MD, Hylda Cohn/American Cancer Society Distinguished University Professor, Drexel University College of Medicine

Dr. Donald Childs passed away on December 10, 2011, at the age of 95. He served as professor of oncology at the Mayo Medical School and participated in many national organizations, including the American Board of Radiology (ABR), for which he was a long-term examiner. He also served on the ABR Board of Trustees during the 1960s.

Dr. Childs was known for his warmth and his highly respected relationships with not only his radiation oncology and radiology associates, but also with his paramedical associates and technicians. He worked within this group as a partner and brought the highest quality of medical care to the patients who came to the Mayo Clinic for treatment.

Dr. Childs had a wonderful sense of humor and was a true Scotsman in that he loved bagpipes and often wore his kilts in major national and local celebrations. His passions were raising orchids and trout fishing, as well as sailing. His interest in sailing began while he was growing up in Upstate New York in and near the Adirondacks and continued throughout his life.

Dr. Childs’ knowledge of classical music was encyclopedic, and he was constantly challenging his friends and his children to name composers and classical music works.

His wife, Ann Osborne Whiteley, formerly of York, Pennsylvania, worked with Dr. Childs for 58 years of marriage until her death in 2000. His son, Anthony Edwards Childs, died about the same time.

Dr. Childs leaves a legacy in radiology, radiation oncology, and nuclear medicine that stands as a beacon of intellectual endeavor. His significant accomplishments had a major impact on the evolution and development of the various fields in radiology.

He is survived by six children: William Childs of Chigasaki, Japan; Martha Childs Abts of Rochester, Minnesota; Stuart Childs of Corbett, Oregon; Constance Childs Elliott of Houston,
Texas; Sally Childs Richendrfer of Mt. Vernon, Washington; and Ann Edwards Childs of Mt. Vernon, Washington. He is also survived by ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Contributions in Dr. Childs’ memory may be made to the Mayo Clinic for Alzheimers Disease Research.