We are saddened to announce the death of Dr. Ernest W. April who retired from the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology in 2016 after 49 years at Columbia University.

Dr. April passed away on June 6th, 2021, in New York City, at the age of 81. He was born on November 6th, 1939, in Salem, Massachusetts. Dr. April earned his undergraduate degree at Tufts University during which time he served in the US Naval Reserve. After graduating, he served in the US Navy for 3 years as an Engineer. Dr. April earned his PhD in anatomy from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1969 where he remained for his entire career.

Dr. April had a broad and significant impact on multiple generations of department members, trainees, and students. His research focused on the study of liquid crystals in biological systems, and he published over 20 papers in distinguished journals. Dr. April became the course director of gross anatomy in 1971 and served in that position until 2009. During the 1970s he initiated an annual tradition to honor the anatomical donors; Columbia was one of the first schools to do so and these services are now performed at all medical schools. Dr. April also published several anatomical textbooks and review books.

Dr. April is survived by his wife, Lauren Helm, MD, son, Geoffrey, and a granddaughter. We offer then our deep condolences.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Ms. Tanya Carter on Sunday June 13, 2021. She was an important and vibrant member of the department for many years and will be dearly missed.

Tanya S. Carter was born to the late Geneva P. Carter and Ricardo A. Carter on December 3, 1972 in Paterson, New Jersey. She graduated from Rosa L. Parks School of the Performing Arts high school, majoring in Music and studied French and continued her education at Rutgers University-Newark, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2000. She was a devoted member of her church and sang in the choir.

Tanya loved to travel and was an excellent chef who specialized in international foods. Her favorite pasttime was watching Japanese soap operas.

I met Tanya on July 2013 while working for the Clinical Revenue Office as part of the Medicare Team in Fort Lee, New Jersey. She sat in the cubicle across from me and we would always share stories about our nieces and nephews. I transferred to the Pathology and Cell Biology billing office and we kept in contact. When a position became available within the department, I encouraged Tanya to interview for the role because I knew first-hand the expertise and vast knowledge of billing, especially regarding Medicare, she had. I was happy to have Tanya become part of the Pathology and Cell Biology Team! Now, not only did I have a former co-worker with me, but also someone that had become a dear friend. The billing team could always rely on her to assist with Medicare issues, billing questions, system questions, questions about New Jersey where she lived or just to see her smile. I, along with the rest of the Pathology and Cell Biology billing office, and the department at large, will forever miss our coworker and our friend - Ms. Tanya Carter.