

Ernest April, MD (1939-2021)

BY PAULETTE BERND, MD

Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology



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.