

## In memoriam Dr. Judah Folkman

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Tuesday morning, January 15, 2008 was a very sad day as news of Dr. Folkman's unexpected death spread throughout the world. So many people were stunned and saddened—from the researchers and clinicians who were inspired and had worked side-by-side with Dr. Folkman, to his students past and present, to the patients and their families to whom he gave so much throughout his life.

Much has been written to honor Dr. Folkman's achievements; his impact on the field of angiogenesis has been at the forefront and also behind the scenes. He fueled the research enterprise by attracting scientists from every niche and clinicians from every sub-specialty to join the field. He was a consummate teacher; his lectures were filled not only with immense knowledge, but also humor and compassion. He focused attention on the work of others by asking the insightful question, making the connections, and championing the new ideas. He listened and was truly engrossed by all that was going on. He guided us all by his example and his dedication.

Among his innumerable contributions, Dr. Folkman served as an Associate Editor for *Angiogenesis*. Each year since 2004 he generously provided his views and advice about how to increase the impact of *Angiogenesis*. The photo here was taken on December 7, 2007 in his office, after a busy day at the end of a busy week, a typical week

in which Dr. Folkman never ran out of energy for the field of angiogenesis. His advice to us, as Editors-in-Chief, has been creative, practical, and innovative. In 2006, he suggested that each issue should have an attractive image on the cover to draw attention to a particular paper and to provide an “identity” for each issue of the journal. This change was incorporated for 2007 and we hope to have many important cover images in the future. In December of 2007 he urged us to solicit essays on “unsolved questions” to provide a forum for discussion and contemplation. We encourage and welcome such contributions.

We are fortunate to publish in this issue of *Angiogenesis* an article contributed by Domenico Ribatti, M.D., entitled “Judah Folkman, a Pioneer in the Study of Angiogenesis”. Dr. Folkman was pleased with the article and worked closely with Dr. Ribatti in the final editing. Sadly, the

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This photograph was taken in Dr. Folkman's office, at December 7, 2007, on the occasion of an *Angiogenesis* editor meeting at Children's Hospital in Boston

article is published at this time when Dr. Folkman is no longer with us. We are most grateful for this scholarly review of Dr. Folkman's role in the emergence of angiogenesis as a field of study in medicine and biotechnology.

As members of the vibrant and ever-expanding field that Dr. Folkman founded, we all mourn his death and yet, remain inspired by the path he set in motion. Angiogenesis research is global, with more than 1,000 laboratories across

the world conducting research on aspects of angiogenesis and angiogenic diseases. More than 1.2 million patients worldwide are receiving anti-angiogenic therapy. We hope that our journal, *Angiogenesis*, will serve as an important mechanism for disseminating the new discoveries, technologies and ideas that will enable the field to have the full impact on health and disease management that Dr. Folkman envisioned.