

UCLA DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY



James R. Orecklin, MD, MPH
1940 - 2019

UCLA Urology's dear colleague and friend, Dr. Jim Orecklin, passed away peacefully the evening of February 25, 2019 in the presence of his family.

Dr. Orecklin earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Michigan, where he graduated AOA. After serving as a surgery intern and junior resident at Sinai Hospital of Detroit, he spent two years as Captain in the US Air Force. He then moved to Los Angeles for his urology residency at the Wadsworth VA and Harbor UCLA Medical Centers, finishing in 1973. For the next 26 years, he worked in community practice in Santa Monica alongside a beloved urology group that included Drs. David Leff and Arthur Schapiro, serving as a volunteer clinical faculty member in our program. He earned his Masters of Public Health from UCLA in 1997.

Dr. Orecklin and his partners joined the UCLA Urology full-time faculty in 1999 when their practice was integrated into our department, bringing great depth of clinical experience and practical knowledge. During the ensuing years, Dr. Orecklin became part of the fabric of our service, serving as Santa Monica team leader for what has become a vibrant and critical element of our training program and clinical practice. Throughout his career, Dr. Orecklin was well known across the Los Angeles urology community as a kind physician, a reliable surgeon, and an individual of the utmost personal and professional integrity.

In 2001, he and I created the state-funded IMPACT Program, which will soon enter its 20th year providing free prostate cancer treatment for low-income, uninsured men throughout California. He served as IMPACT Medical Director for 13 years until his retirement, then continued to contribute to the program's administration.

His calm and steady energy brought thoughtfulness, insight, and compassion to thousands of patients over the years, and he was highly regarded as a knowledgeable and pragmatic teacher by generations of residents and medical students. To those of us fortunate to have called him friend, his passing creates a hole that will ache for some time.

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