

ABOUT DR. WITTLIFF

After graduate studies at LSU School of Medicine, The University of Texas at Austin and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Wittliff joined the faculty of the University of Rochester in New York state. There, Dr. Wittliff was among the first investigators to discover that receptor proteins for female sex hormones, estrogen and progesterone, in a breast cancer tissue biopsy serve as biomarkers predicting a patient's risk of recurrence and response to hormone therapy.



While Chair of Biochemistry at the University of Louisville, Wittliff, worked with scientists at NEN/DuPont to co-develop the first tissue-based biomarker tests for breast cancer management to receive Food & Drug Administration approval. His laboratory was designated the National Reference Facility by the National Cancer Institute for performing these tests and training staff in laboratories worldwide conducting clinical trials. His wife and laboratory partner, Mitzie, managed distribution of biomarker reference samples that he developed to more than 400 laboratories world-wide as part of a federally supported program. One of these historic clinical trials with the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast & Bowel Project established Tamoxifen as a widely used adjuvant therapy for breast cancer.

Dr. Wittliff and IA, Inc. patented receptor-based fiber-optic biosensors that detected endocrine disrupting compounds in the environment. His research on the genomics of human breast cancer using laser capture microdissection led to development of a tumor marker database and tissue biorepository for deciphering clinically relevant tests. Dr. Wittliff served on a prestigious panel of the College of American Pathologists and the American Society for Clinical Oncology that established rigid guidelines for biomarker testing in breast cancer. His awards include Doctor of Medicine *honoris causa* from Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck, Austria, University of Louisville President's Award for Career Achievements, the American Association for Clinical Chemistry's Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry Research and the Morton K. Schwartz Award for Significant Contributions in Cancer Research Diagnostics as well as the American Cancer Society's Goldsmith Research Excellence Award. He and his wife Mitzie have established a fellowship program for Scholars in STEM Studies at SMA.

