

*IN MEMORIAM***IRVING M. ARIEL, M.D.**

*Irving M. Ariel, M.D.  
(1911-1993)*

With the death of Irving M. Ariel, the world has lost one of its premier oncologic surgeons. Early in his career, Dr. Ariel recognized the value of advanced training in tumor surgery, and he was one of the first surgeons to be a "cancer fellow" at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York and later at the Memorial Cancer and Allied Hospital in New York City. Not only did he attain international renown as a clinical surgeon, but he was an early advocate of using chemotherapy and radioisotopes to destroy focal residual deposits of disseminated cancer. With George T. Pack, M.D., he contributed two monumental works on soft tissue sarcomas and cancer in childhood, and his books on breast cancer and one on melanoma completed just before his death have been widely acclaimed. Despite his achievements, he remained a humble, simple and humorous man, who realized how much more we need to know to solve the cancer riddle. He was troubled by the neglect of lymphedema and its sequelae as an

aftermath of radical dissection and ionizing radiation used in cancer staging and treatment and was intrigued by the Curriculum on Medical Ignorance at The University of Arizona College of Medicine where questions and questioning about biologic unknowns abound. Until the last day of his life, he was vigorous and mentally "sharp as a tack" and, in fact, he was planning to share his insights into the breast cancer dilemma at the 14th ISL Congress in Washington, DC when he was fatally stricken. Although he was an aggressive surgeon when it came to treating cancer, he always spoke of how one had to search for a better way to eradicate this scourge than by "bigger" operations or more powerful high energy radiation. His incisive ideas and the twinkle in his eye will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues.

**Charles L. Witte, M.D.**