

Cancer Fighter of the Year, 2004

Philip J. Di Saia, M.D.



Surgeon and educator Philip J. Di Saia, M.D., Professor of Gynecologic Oncology, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, and Vice-Chancellor of Health Sciences at the University of California, Irvine, was named to this nation's prestigious award for his leadership in the treatment of and research on cancer of women. He was honored during the American College of Surgeon's annual convention in New Orleans.

Di Saia was born in Providence, Rhode Island. He graduated with honors from Brown University in 1959, and from Tufts University Medical School in 1963. His post-graduate surgical education began at Yale University, continued in military service as Lt. Commander, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy and was capped with a Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

He was cited by sponsor, G. Denman Hammond, M.D., for leadership in clinical and laboratory research, promotion of multi-disciplinary team care, graduate and post-doctoral training, and as a founder and current National Chairman of the worlds largest Gynecologic Oncology Group.

Di Saia has served as president of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He founded the Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists, and has Presided over the Felix Rutledge Society and the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists. He holds fellowships in the American College of Surgeons, College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Gynecological Society and College of Radiology. He directed the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology 1994-2000 and serves on the board of governors of the American College of Surgeons.

Di Saia was instrumental in the development of the medical center at UC Irvine, serving as Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs, Director of Fellowship Training and Residency Training programs in Obstetrics and Gynecology since 1977, and Deputy Director of the NCI Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center since 1990.

He has authored four textbooks, two of which have multiple editions in English, Spanish, Italian and Turk. His peer-reviewed scientific papers exceed 275. He has lectured extensively and been Visiting Professor overseas on 36 occasions.