

Dr. Carmella Gonnella

Dr. Carmella Gonnella of Lakemont died Monday, March 1, 2004, at her home after a lengthy battle with cancer.

She was a physical therapist and a leader in rehabilitation and rehabilitation research. She received bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. She obtained her physical therapy education in the U.S. Army and a doctoral degree in psychology from the University of Texas. Her early rehabilitation research included serving as a field investigator in the gamma globulin vaccination field trials during the polio epidemic.

She practiced physical therapy at Gonzales Warm Springs in Gonzales, Texas, and at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where she was the director of the physical therapy educational program and clinical services. She served on the faculty for the graduate program in physical therapy at Sargent College of Health Professions, Boston University. Later, she joined the faculty at Emory University, where she served as director of the Regional Rehabilitation Research and Training Center. She retired as an Emory professor emeritus in 1992.

She is the author of numerous rehabilitation research articles. She served as president of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. Her contributions to physical therapy resulted in many awards, including the Chattanooga Research Award. She also was appointed as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Carmella Gonnella Research Fund, Physical Therapy Association of Georgia, c/o G. Sanders, 60 Chevaux Court, Atlanta, GA 30342.

A celebration of her life will be held from 4:30-6 p.m. March 17 at Emory University, 849 Houston Road Atlanta.

Hunter Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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