

D. DAVID DERSHAW
Trinity College Class of 1970
Doctor of Science

Presented by Professor of Engineering Joseph L. Palladino

A headline in a 2004 *Trinity Reporter* story called you “a prescription for hope.” That is what you have been for so many women faced with the terrifying diagnosis of breast cancer. As the founding director of the Breast Imaging Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City and a long-time professor of radiology at Weill College of Medicine, Cornell University, you have made the difference between life and death for thousands of women.

During your time at Memorial Sloan Kettering, your service’s staff of two radiologists grew to 21 fellowship-trained breast imagers who see more than 60,000 patients a year. Under your direction, hundreds of health care providers have been trained in mammography and other breast imaging technologies and breast biopsy techniques. You were instrumental in the development of a one-stop clinic for breast care — where women may see radiologists, surgeons, pathologists, and medical oncologists during a single visit to determine the diagnosis and discuss treatment options — eliminating the need for multiple office visits over a longer period of time. Your leadership at Memorial Sloan Kettering also has resulted in the development of nonsurgical breast biopsy techniques and in establishing the role of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) screening for breast cancer.

Well-known as an expert in breast cancer screening, you have authored multiple books; published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers, chapters, commentaries, and editorials; and lectured throughout the United States and around the world.

At Trinity, you graduated Phi Beta Kappa and with honors in biology. You also were awarded membership in Pi Gamma Mu, the International Honor Society in Social Sciences. You immersed yourself in the life of the College, working at WRTC-FM and on the staff of the *Ivy*, and in the life of the city of Hartford, volunteering with the Revitalization Corps, an effort that aimed to mobilize young citizens to tackle problems in inner cities.

After deciding on a life devoted to medicine, in 1974 you earned your M.D. at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, near the suburban town of Cheltenham, where you grew up, and completed your residency in radiology at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in 1978. That year you also earned your board certification from the American Board of Radiology. You returned to Philadelphia for your one-year fellowship, where you explored the emerging technologies of diagnostic ultrasound and CT, or computer tomography, at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Your numerous honors include the Society of Breast Imaging’s 2013 Gold Medal, given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of breast imaging, and you are a fellow of the Society of Breast Imaging, of which you are a past president; the American College of Radiology; and the New York Academy of Medicine. In an effort to guarantee women safe, high-quality mammography and to facilitate new technologies as they were proven effective, you served as an adviser to the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Senate and U.S. House, and the Food and Drug Administration.

On top of all of this, you have maintained your ties to Trinity as a member of the Long Walk Societies and the Elms Society.

In recognition of your groundbreaking contributions to the field of health care, particularly in the battle against breast cancer, and of your devotion to Trinity College, I have the honor of presenting you, D. David Dershaw, for the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.