

Jean Porter Hester

Jeane Porter Hester is an internationally recognized cancer physician and researcher. She and fraternal twin, June, were born June 15, 1929, to Covey and Bess Christian Porter in Big Spring, Texas. After graduating from Chickasha High School in 1947, she matriculated at Oklahoma College for Women (now University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma) and graduated with a bachelor's degree in French in 1951. That year, she married Bob Hester. A son, Stephen, was born in 1953. From 1961 to 1963 she completed premedical requirements at Oklahoma City University. In 1963 she entered the University Of Oklahoma School Of Medicine, graduating in 1967. Hester accepted a fellowship in oncology at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in 1971 and continued there in many capacities, including assistant professor of medicine (1973-78), associate professor of medicine (1978-84), and full professor (1984-95). Upon retirement from Anderson, she established Haemeferesis Consultants in Houston, Texas.

Hester focused on therapies to improve the survival of cancer patients, and her work bridged the areas of biotechnology, clinical research, and patient care. A significant amount of her research involved hemapheresis, the harvesting of blood elements for therapeutic purposes. Hemapheresis is currently applied in the use of blood stem cells for bone marrow transplantation strategies.

Hester has written more than 275 publications, is a member of numerous medical societies, and has served on several scientific journal editorial boards. She has been inducted into the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Texas Women's Hall of Fame (1984), and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame (1987).

Jeane Porter Hester was inducted into the Chickasha High School Hall of Fame in 1987.