
Thomas J. Dougherty, PhD

Chief Emeritus, Photodynamic Therapy Center
Professor of Oncology
Cell Stress Biology
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
President & Research Director
The Oncologic Foundation of Buffalo



Dr. Thomas J. Dougherty joined the staff of Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) in 1970 as a Research Associate in the Department of Experimental Biology. The following year, he was appointed Cancer Research Scientist and Head of Radiation Biology, Department of Radiation Medicine, and was appointed Chief, Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) Center, 1988. He also is a Research Professor, Molecular & Cellular Biophysics, Roswell Park Graduate Division, University at Buffalo (UB), Research Professor of Radiation Oncology, UB School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, and President & Research Director, The Oncologic Foundation of Buffalo.

Dr. Dougherty earned his doctoral degree in Physical Organic Chemistry at Ohio State University, Columbus, in 1959 and is trained in the molecular aspects of Neuro-Oncology. He has extensive tumor immunology and neuro-oncology laboratory experience ranging from the use of clinical samples for molecular and immunological studies to small animal surgery. He has been involved in exploring the protective efficacy of immunotherapy targeting “Survivin,” “EGFR” and “EGFRvIII” expressed by intracranial glioma, as well as molecular and small molecule targeting studies. The Neuro-Oncology laboratory at Roswell Park Cancer Institute was established 16 years ago by Dr. Dougherty and Dr. Robert Fenstermaker (Chair/Neurosurgery). Dr. Dougherty has co-authored hundreds of publications and holds numerous patents.

Dr. Dougherty is a member of the American Association for Cancer Research, American Chemical Society, American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery, American Society for Photobiology, European Society for Photobiology, International Photodynamic Association, and Radiation Research Society. Dr. Dougherty has authored or co-authored more than 200 journal publications, book chapters and abstracts, and holds 25 patents. He is Assistant Editor of International Photodynamics and serves on the editorial boards of Lasers in Surgery and Medicine and the Journal of Clinical Laser Medicine & Surgery. He is a reviewer for the British Journal of Cancer, Cancer Research, European Journal of Cancer, International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Journal of Surgical Oncology, New England Journal of Medicine, and Photochemistry and Photobiology. Dr. Dougherty also is a grant reviewer for the National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society, and the Swiss National Science Foundation. Dr. Dougherty’s work has been the subject of several newspaper articles and television news programs, as well as a 30-minute special on CBS describing his trip to China in 1983 to lecture on photodynamic therapy.

Dr. Dougherty was awarded a lifetime achievement award from the American Society of Photodynamics.