In Memoriam

Dr. Arceci, clinical pediatric oncology expert

A renowned expert in clinical pediatric oncology, Robert J. Arceci, M.D., Ph.D., FAAP, 65, of Scottsdale, Ariz., died June 8 when his motorcycle was hit by a landscape truck.

Dr. Arceci was an authority in the diagnosis and treatment of leukemia and Langerhans cell histiocytosis. He served as the editor of the AAP-American Society of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology PREP Hematology/Oncology Self-Assessment and was a member of the Pediatric Oncology Group and Children's Cancer Group.

His interests included understanding of basic and translational research and discovery and implementation of basic science to improve care for children with cancer. He also was interested in new individualized treatment options, therapeutic targets and immunotherapies that would improve outcomes while reducing treatment side effects.

The mastermind behind the primetime Emmy Award-winning documentary, “A Lion in the House,” he worked with filmmakers to tell the personal stories of children and families facing cancer and their medical teams treating them. The film was selected for the documentary competition at the Sundance Film Festival.

Two years ago, Dr. Arceci moved to Phoenix from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where he was director and King Fahd Professor of Pediatric Oncology. The first director of the Ron Matricaria Institute of Molecular Medicine at Phoenix Children's Hospital, he was director of the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders and professor of pediatrics at University of Arizona College of Medicine.

He completed his residency in pediatrics at Boston Children’s Hospital and fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Dr. Arceci is survived by his wife, Jean, and two sons.