Irma H. Russo, M.D.

Irma H. Russo, M.D., AACR member since 1979, died on June 25, 2013, at the age of 71. She was chief of the molecular endocrinology section in the breast cancer research laboratory at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pa., and adjunct professor of pathology and cell biology at Thomas Jefferson University College of Medicine.

Born on Feb. 2, 1942, in Argentina, Russo received her medical degree from the School of Medicine, National University of Cuyo, in Mendoza, Argentina. Russo trained in the department of pathology at Wayne State University School of Medicine, in Detroit. Mich., and became an assistant professor in the department, as well as a visiting research scientist at the Michigan Cancer Foundation. She was appointed associate research member and chief of the experimental pathology laboratory at the foundation until she accepted a role at Fox Chase Cancer Center. Russo was first appointed director of Fox Chase’s anatomic pathology and outpatient hematology laboratory, and soon became director of laboratory services in the department of pathology. She had served as chief of the molecular endocrinology section since 1994.

Russo, who had been an AACR member for more than 30 years, served on the Minorities in Cancer Research Membership Group, the Women in Cancer Research Membership Group, the Chemistry in Cancer Research Working Group, the Tumor Microenvironment Working Group and the Cancer Immunology Working Group. She has also held numerous roles in organizations including the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Health, and the Karolinska Institute in Huddinge, Sweden. Her research interests include breast cancer prevention.

She is survived by her husband, Jose Russo, M.D., director of the breast cancer research laboratory at Fox Chase and an AACR member; her daughter, Patricia A. Russo, editorial assistant, AACR publications department; son-in-law, Ronald W. Waite Jr.; and sister, Alicia E. Alvarez, Ph.D.