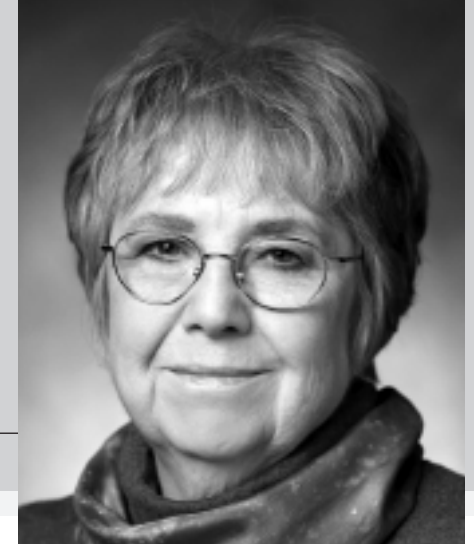




DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Sara Rockwell '65



To Sara Rockwell for her outstanding career in biophysics and radiation biology research, education, and policy direction.

Sara Rockwell's pioneering work and discoveries in the area of tumor biology have led to significant improvements in the treatment of cancer. As one of the preeminent researchers in the world, Rockwell's work has been documented in more than 180 publications in top scientific journals and recognized with numerous scientific awards.

Early in her career, Rockwell developed a special line of mouse cancer cells that could be studied in cell culture and also as tumors in mice, which allowed her, her research team, and colleagues to conduct seminal pre-clinical studies of novel combination therapies for cancer.

A major aspect of Rockwell's research has focused on regions within solid tumors that are hypoxic, or low in oxygen, due to the abnormal blood vessels in these tumors. Cells in these areas are resistant to radiation and to many chemotherapy agents. Over the years, she and her collaborators studied several

new approaches and new drugs to specifically target hypoxic cells in tumors. Her research has prompted many clinical trials that have provided the basis for new cancer therapy regimens.

Rockwell began her career at Yale in 1974 as an assistant professor in therapeutic radiology. She has held numerous leadership positions within Yale, and today is associate dean for scientific affairs at Yale University School of Medicine. Rockwell is also a professor, teaching radiation biology, pharmacology, cancer biology, and ethics classes.

Rockwell is involved in science and technology policy at state and national levels. She represents Yale in the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)—an association of federal agencies, academic researchers and administrators, and research policy organizations that works to streamline research administration. She was chair of the faculty committee and vice chair of the overall FDP in 2007-08.

"It's a very interesting thing to do; you sometimes get to modify federal policy in a way that both helps researchers and benefits research," said Rockwell.

"Paperwork has become such an onerous burden for researchers. We all want science to be done as safely and ethically as possible, but we need to streamline the oversight procedures."

As a radiation biologist, Rockwell has also served on committees focused on the dangers involved with radiation and its possible use in terrorism, including the Radiation/Nuclear Threat Countermeasures Working Group, formed by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Homeland Security, and the Connecticut Radiation Response Planning Group. Rockwell has also served on advisory panels for the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Defense, and the American Cancer Society. She has volunteered as a mentor and speaker for many groups, including the American Association of University Women and CURE, a network organization for schools and bioscience businesses in Connecticut. Her outreach efforts encourage women and minorities to pursue education and careers in science.

"I think it's important for women in science in my age group, which are still rare, to be role models," Rockwell said. "Having women and minority groups in

science and medicine not only brings different perspectives, but also provides interest in different areas."

Rockwell has received many awards and distinctions, including election to membership in the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering and selection as a fellow of the American Society for Radiation Oncology. She has also served for 10 years as the editor-in-chief of the journal *Radiation Research*, a position that is peer chosen.

In addition to earning her bachelor's degree in physics from Penn State, Rockwell has close family ties to the University with numerous relatives holding Penn State degrees. Rockwell's father, W. Paul Campbell, earned his doctoral degree at Penn State and was a professor of music education at the University for 17 years. "Because we are a Penn State family, this award from Penn State has delighted my family and friends more than any other I've received," she said.

A life member of the Penn State Alumni Association, Rockwell lives in Madison, Conn. She has two adult daughters and four grandchildren.