Biographies

Marlys Hearst Witte, M.D. is Professor of Surgery and Director of the Student Research Program at the University of Arizona, President of the Ignorance Foundation, Inc. (devoted to all we have left to learn and discover), and Secretary-General of the 44-nation International Society of Lymphology. She specializes in disorders of the lymphatic system (lymphatics, lymph nodes, lymph and lymphocytes) and conducts research in basic and clinical lymphology. She received her undergraduate degree summa cum laude from Columbia University’s Barnard College, medical education at New York University School of Medicine, and post-graduate residency training at The University of North Carolina-North Carolina Memorial Hospital, New York University-Bellevue Medical Center, and Washington University in St. Louis/Barnes Hospital. She has developed an internationally recognized Curriculum on Medical (and Other) Ignorance, which deals with “all the things we know we don’t know, don’t know we don’t know, and think we know but don’t.” The Q³ project (“Questions, Questioning and Questioners”), targeting medical, graduate, undergraduate and K-12 students and science teachers, has received funding from the federal government and private foundations and is currently supported by National Institutes of Health training grant and the Science Education Partnership Award. Dr. Witte is now developing a Medical Ignorance Exploratorium and Virtual Clinical Research Center (VCRC) accessible for public education on the Internet.

Michael Bernas received his MS in genetics from the University of Arizona. After working in the Department of Pathology, he moved to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle and later rejoined the faculty at the University of Arizona in the Department of Surgery. He has numerous publications in both basic and clinical lymphology and has received national and international awards for his work. Paralleling his funded scientific research, he focuses on science education and coordinates the Curriculum on Medical Ignorance with special emphasis on authentic kindergarten through graduate/professional student inquiry and web-based transportable curricular modules.