

Carole M. Schneider, PhD



Carole M. Schneider, 63, passed away on July 30, 2013, in Omaha, Nebraska, after a long battle with cancer. She was a professor of sport and exercise science at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) in Greeley, Colorado, and the cofounder and director of UNC's Rocky Mountain Cancer Rehabilitation Institute (RMCRI), which became the focus of her work and is her greatest legacy. She was a respected scholar in exercise physiology and cancer rehabilitation, a dedicated teacher, and an inspiring mentor.

Carole attended Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa, earning a bachelor of science in physical education in 1972. She pursued graduate studies in exercise physiology at Iowa State University (master of science, 1982) and the University of Minnesota (PhD, 1986). Prior to joining UNC's faculty in 1992, she was an assistant professor at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, from 1986 to 1988 and at the University of Kansas in Lawrence from 1988 to 1992.

After being diagnosed with cancer in November 1995, Carole spent the next 18 years fighting cancer personally and professionally. She drew upon her understanding of exercise physiology to counter the negative side effects of her own radiation and chemotherapy treatments with exercise and nutrition. Out of her experience, RMCRI was established in 1997 as an entity of the College of Health and Human Sciences, which is now the College of Natural and Health Sciences, at UNC. It is the only facility of its kind in the country and is recognized as a frontrunner in cancer rehabilitation.

For Carole, the colleagues with whom she worked and the cancer survivors they served became extended family and the heart and soul of RMCRI. Since its inception in 1997, the institute has served more than 1,000 survivors, who credit the program with helping them regain health and hope during their cancer treatment and recovery. Additionally, Carole's influence on scores of undergraduate and graduate students is difficult to overstate. She taught and

mentored more than 550 undergraduate students and almost 300 graduate students as researchers, teachers, and cancer rehabilitation specialists. In annual summer workshops, she and her colleagues trained more than 120 healthcare professionals from around the world to implement and manage similar rehabilitation programs in their own communities. She was tenaciously passionate and tireless about her work in a way that elevated the dedication and performance of all around her.

Carole's pioneering work also spread through her research. With numerous colleagues, including fellow RMCRI directors Reid Hayward, PhD, and Kurt Dallow, MD, she investigated the benefits of moderate-intensity, prescriptive exercise during and after cancer treatment. She was especially interested in exploring the effects of supervised exercise on fatigue and cardiopulmonary function in cancer survivors. Her research was published widely, including within the pages of this journal. Most importantly, it is a body of work that has promising quality-of-life implications for millions of cancer survivors.

Carole is survived by five of her six siblings: Sandra Schmitt, Russell Schneider, Diane Downs, Marlene Schneider, and Michael Schneider; her sisters-in-law, Patricia Schneider and Marcia Schneider; her brothers-in-law, Richard Schmitt and Douglas Downs; and numerous nieces and nephews. Her parents, William and Colette Schneider, and her older brother, Richard Schneider, preceded her in death.

To honor Carole's legacy, contributions can be made to RMCRI or to a UNC scholarship fund that was established in her name to support doctoral students in exercise physiology. To donate to RMCRI, visit <http://www.unco.edu/rmcri/donations.html>. To contribute to the scholarship, visit <https://uncfoundation.merchantsecure.com/giving/give-to-unc.asp?a=1463>.

— Cathy Heise