



Shy of a nearly 50 year career on the UW-Madison campus, Paul M. DeLuca Jr., Emeritus Professor of the Department of Medical Physics, retired as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs in 2014. DeLuca left a lasting legacy at the university that will be felt by generations to come.

Paul arrived at UW as a postdoc in 1971, shortly after receiving his doctorate in nuclear physics from the University of Notre Dame. In 1973, he became an assistant scientist in the Medical Physics Section of the Department of Radiology. He joined the faculty as an adjunct professor in 1974 and was named a full professor in 1985 in what we all know is the Department of Medical Physics, where he subsequently led for more than 10 years as chair. Professor DeLuca was Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the Medical School from 1999—2009 when he was appointed Provost by then-UW-Madison Chancellor Biddy Martin.

At UW-Madison, the provost serves as the lead academic official, helping to set and guide the university's academic missions of research and education. The provost works closely with the chancellor and with the deans of UW-Madison's 13 schools and colleges, and oversees programs for faculty and staff, diversity initiatives and enrollment management. The position also serves as the point official for shared governance. In the absence of the chancellor, the provost assumes the role of chief executive.

During his tenure as provost, Paul oversaw a major leadership overhaul for the university - perhaps the largest in the institution's history - playing a lead role in the recruiting and hiring of 10 new deans and directors for various schools, colleges and institutes. The Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (MIU), an effort to enhance and improve the quality of the undergraduate experience, also blossomed under Paul's watch with the hiring of a cadre of new faculty and staff in critical mission-driven areas.

Paul's years of work as an administrator helped shape UW's future. As vice dean of the School of Medicine and Public Health, a position he held just before becoming provost, Professor DeLuca was deeply involved in the development of the Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research (WIMR), a burgeoning biomedical research complex on the west campus, and where the Department of Medical Physics is currently located. Paul helped form both the physical and intellectual underpinnings of WIMR, which seeks an innovative approach to treating human disease through synergistic interdisciplinary collaboration.

Other accomplishments attributable to Provost DeLuca included:

- Significant new programs to modernize teaching labs.
- An overhaul of the introductory biology sequence and major.
- Guiding the establishment of the Wisconsin Energy Institute.
- Dramatic upgrade of the information technology environment, including new initiative in high-performance computing, large data storage, and improvements in network access and security.
- Creation of the Office of Industrial Contracting.
- Rebuilding the Vilas Trust program to support senior faculty.
- Helping oversee the establishment of the "Discovery to Product" (D2P) program and the Shanghai Innovation Office.

As a scholar, Paul is known for his studies on the effects of high-energy particle radiation on humans. He is the author or co-author of more than 75 research papers, many focusing on the various applications of physics to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. In addition, he has numerous technical reports, book chapters and other publications to his credit. As a teacher, he has supervised nearly 50 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows through graduate work or postdoctoral training.

Paul's influence in the department is still felt just as much today as it was when he joined the department nearly 40 years ago, and has left lasting impressions on students and colleagues around the globe.

In fall of 2020, former students of Paul began the formation of an endowed fund in his name. While all gifts are welcome and appreciated, the new Paul DeLuca Endowment Fund will allow donors to have a lasting impact on the Department of Medical Physics. These gifts will directly benefit students and create a legacy that will support Wisconsin Medical Physics now and in perpetuity.

The department sincerely thanks all of the generous supporters who want to contribute to this endowed fund. More information will be shared once the Paul DeLuca Endowment Fund is officially created with the UW Foundation.