

# BUMC honors long-time lab leader Freida Carson

In December, BUMC named the Histology Laboratory in honor of **Freida Carson**, PhD, who worked in the lab for decades. Her distinguished service began in 1956 and ended in 1991—most of that time, she was the lab's leader.

Dr. Carson was on hand for the dedication, which honored not only the length of her tenure but her many achievements as well. It was a fitting tribute to her legacy at BUMC and came at the end of her life, as she [passed away](#) less than a month later, on Jan. 11, 2022.

Within six months of joining the BUMC Histology Laboratory—which examines tissue samples to uncover the nature of a disease—she began her leadership rise from supervisor to Lab director.

During her 35-year tenure, she trained hundreds of laboratorians to become histotechnicians. In 1971, thanks in large measure to Dr. Carson's skills as an educator, BUMC became one of the first of 11 hospitals in the nation to have an accredited histotechnology training program.



Freida Carson, PhD

### Dr. Freida Carson Histology Lab dedication



## **A national figure**

Her impact was not only felt at BUMC but throughout the field of histology (also called histopathology). She developed a dual-purpose fixative for both light and electron microscopy still known as Carson-Millonig formalin that is used in labs everywhere. She also was active in multiple professional groups, including the American Society for Clinical Pathology, developing standards for the field and encouraging others to consider a histotechnology career.

Dr. Carson was a prolific presenter at local and national conferences and wrote hundreds of journal articles. She is perhaps best known for authoring/editing five editions of *Histotechnology: A Self-Instructional Textbook*, a perennial bestseller for histotechnology training.

Through her work and dedication to the field, her legacy in histopathology will live on for generations to come.