

Richard E. Wainerdi, P.E., Ph.D.

Richard E. Wainerdi was elected President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the Texas Medical Center in 1984 after his retirement from the Gulf Oil Corporation. Dr. Wainerdi joined Gulf as the President of Gulf Research & Development Company, the worldwide research arm of Gulf, in November, 1982. He was Senior Vice President and Director of Research and Development of 3D/International, a design and engineering firm in Houston, from 1977 to 1982.

He spent 20 years with Texas A&M University in both scientific and academic affairs from 1957 to 1977. He founded Texas A&M University's Nuclear Science Center, the Activation Analysis Research Laboratory, the German Synfuels Technology Retrieval Program, the Center for Energy and Mineral Resources, and a number of other programs including the University's College of Medicine. He was a Professor of Chemical Engineering, and he served as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. His research activities were principally in the field of micro analytical and radio analytical chemistry, using computer coupled and automated systems and in the production of alternative fuels by various methods.

Dr. Wainerdi is now an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. He is an Adjunct Professor, Restorative Dentistry & Biomaterials in the Dental Branch, a Clinical Professor in the School of Nursing, and an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center at Houston. He is an Adjunct Professor of Experimental Radiation Physics in the Department of Radiation Physics, Division of Radiotherapy at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and an Adjunct Professor of Engineering in the Engineering Programs of Texas A&M University and Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Biosciences and Technology of Texas A&M University System Health Science Center. He is a member of The University Cancer Foundation's Board of Visitors of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

A petroleum engineering graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Wainerdi also received M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in petroleum and natural gas engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. He is also a graduate of the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology, and of the Bronx High School of Science. He serves on the Board of Visitors of the University of Oklahoma College of Engineering.

Dr. Wainerdi has served as a consultant to many companies and to both the state and federal governments. He has authored 198 technical journals, papers and books. He was selected "Engineer of the Year" for Brazos County, Texas, in 1966, and for Houston, Texas in 1992, by the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. He was named "Master Builder" by the Houston Chapter of the Associated General Contractors in 2002 and "International Executive of the Year" in 2002.

During his tenure at the Texas Medical Center, the campus has increased dramatically by almost any measurement – number of acres, patient count, number of employees and students, and the total investment in the physical plant and in the amount of money in research grants. His leadership has been one of successfully managing a campus of 43 member institutions that includes nine university or college systems by encouraging them to work together while at the same time helping to create an environment where they actively compete.