



University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

THE OFFICIAL CANCER CENTER OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

A COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER DESIGNATED BY THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Elsie Wilson

Elsie Wilson, Research Technician, will be retiring after 37 years of dedicated service to the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer. It is with great honor that the Clinical Research Office recognizes Elsie for her many accomplishments, and distinguished career.

Elsie began her career as an in-patient nurse for the United States Public Health Service for Merchant Marines and U.S. Coast Guard in Boston, Massachusetts.

After much persuasion from a physician at the Indian Health Service (IHS) Hospital in Kotzebue, Alaska, Elsie accepted the position as a physician's assistant and made the week-long drive to Anchorage and another 550 miles via plane to Kotzebue, 26 miles above the Arctic Circle in the Northwest Arctic Borough. The IHS Hospital treated primarily the Inuit population living in the Kobuk Valley and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Elsie further distinguished herself as the Area Coordinator for Community Health Services at Norton Sound Health Corporation in Nome, Alaska. During this time, Elsie worked on Little Diomed Island in the Bering Strait. Its neighboring island, 2 miles away, is Big Diomed, Russia. Planes must fly over Big Diomed to reach the airstrip on Little Diomed. Elsie waved at the Russian soldiers on Big Diomed, "but they never waved back." Elsie was responsible for providing health services and promoting wellness to the Native people of the Norton Sound region with cultural sensitivity and respect for traditional values.

In 1981, Elsie began her employment with the University of New Mexico Cancer Research and Treatment Center (CRTC) in the Gynecology Oncology & Radiation Clinic with Cesium Implant.

From 1986 to 2000 Elsie worked in the CRTC Protocol Department. She was responsible for IRB submission, consenting patients, collecting and submission of specimens, collecting source documents and preparing charts for audits at the VA, Lovelace, Santa Fe Oncology Group and San Juan Cancer Center.

In 2000, Elsie started working for the Clinical Research Office as a Research Technician. In the past 18 years she has been responsible for all clinical research procedures, protocols, and preparation techniques for the collection, processing and shipping of all protocol specimens.

For several years she worked with Dr. Claire Verschraegen and her Phase I team. In the last year Elsie has worked exclusively on Phase 1 protocols with Dr. Rixe and his Phase 1 clinical trials team.

In retirement Elsie will enjoy spending time with family, friends, her 2 dogs, and the fresh air and beauty of Beaver Eye Springs, Arizona. She plans to visit the Aleutian Islands, specifically to see the tufted puffins that captured her imagination when she lived in Alaska..