

Dr. Ronald Mitchel passed away on Monday, March 17, 2025 at age 83. He was the beloved husband of the late Liz Mitchel (nee Salter). Loving father of Brent Mitchel (Pamela) of Whitby and Marnie Mitchel (Brian Gray) of Ottawa. Ron earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of British Columbia and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at UCLA's School of Medicine. He later joined Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) in Chalk River, Ontario, Canada, in 1970 as a Research Scientist, where he spent his entire career and retired in 2007.

In the late 1970s, Ron recognized and characterized a cellular phenomenon on radiation-induced adaptive responses and began leading AECL's low-dose research program. His work explored the biological effects ionizing radiation, examining cellular, molecular, and animal-level responses to low doses and rates of radiation. His research emphasized the genetic control of radiation adaptation and its implications for radiation risk, cancer, and environmental protection.

Ron Mitchel was an adjunct professor at Laurentian University and the University of Ottawa, associate editor of two scientific journals, and author of numerous peer-reviewed scientific publications. He received the prestigious W.B. Lewis Medal in 2003, the highest honour jointly awarded by the Canadian Nuclear Society and the Canadian Nuclear Association, for his significant contributions to research supporting health and safety in the nuclear industry. In 2007, Ron was awarded the Outstanding Career Achievement Award from the International Dose Response Society. He was an outstanding mentor to students, peers, and colleagues. After retiring, Ron became a Researcher Emeritus at AECL.

Ron had a wide range of interests. He learned to scuba dive at the Sea Hellions club in Vancouver, where he met his wife Liz. Ron and Liz earned their pilot's licenses, bought a motor boat, and learned to waterski, sail, and downhill ski. Ron's legacy of scientific achievement, dedication to mentorship, and adventurous spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him.