The demands of heading a world-renowned cancer center did not prevent LeMaistre from pursuing his interest in cancer control. He chaired the 1981 National Conference on Smoking or Health and the 1985 International Summit of Smoking Control Leaders. He has written numerous scientific articles, monographs, and editorials on the health consequences of tobacco use. As president of the American Cancer Society in 1987, LeMaistre actively promoted efforts to increase public awareness of smoking's risks, to encourage smoking cessation, and to discourage smoking among young people and other at-risk populations.

A Multitalented Man

John Seffrin, Ph.D., chief executive officer for the American Cancer Society, called LeMaistre "one of the giants in the cancer control field, in no small measure because he is a unique, multi-talented man. Mickey LeMaistre is an admixture of political savvy, scientific orientation, and sophistication. He is a consummate administrator who also has the passion necessary to make substantive change. I cannot think of another contemporary leader in cancer control who has made a bigger contribution on behalf of people facing cancer."

Among other forms of recognition, LeMaistre has received the American Lung Association President's Award, the Texas Cancer Council Gibson D. Lewis Award for Excellence in Cancer Control, the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America Service to Mankind Award (shared with his wife, Joyce), the Texas Society to Prevent Blindness "People of Vision" award, and the American Medical Association Distinguished Service Award.

Some time after August 31, LeMaistre and his wife of 44 years plan to move to their lake home in Austin. He has no specific retirement plans aside from the desire "to spend more time with my wife to make up for all the time that we have not had together in the past." He also expects to have more

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**Stat Bite**

**Thyroid Cancers in Children in Belarus**

U.S. National Cancer Institute scientists are working with scientists in Belarus and Ukraine to assess the health impact of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident in April 1986. Prospective cohort studies aim to determine the risk of thyroid cancer among persons 18 years of age or younger at the time of the accident (about 15,000 in Belarus and 50,000 in Ukraine) and to reconstruct the radiation dose to the thyroid for each person in the study. The number of thyroid cancer cases has risen in both countries since 1986. These cancers are thought to be caused by radioactive iodine in the fallout that was incorporated primarily into milk and other foods.

![Graph showing number of thyroid cancers over time in Belarus and Ukraine](https://example.com/thyroid_cancer_graph.png)