



Sheila Ridner, PhD, RN

Dr. Ridner is a native of Fordsville, Kentucky. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Kentucky in 1978. After graduation she began her career as an oncology nurse and shortly moved into psychiatric mental health and addiction nursing. In 1988 she completed a Master of Science in Health Services Administration. In 2000 she received a Master of Science in Nursing and in 2003 a PhD in Nursing Science, both from Vanderbilt University. In the first semester of her PhD program, she submitted a lymphedema grant to the National Institutes of Health. It was immediately funded. Upon completion of her PhD, she became an inaugural Post-Doctoral Fellow at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She quickly advanced through the tenured academic ranks and was awarded an Endowed Chair by Vanderbilt University in recognition of her research contribution to the University. During that time, she was continually funded for lymphatic research, published numerous scientific manuscripts, and became internationally known for her pioneering work in lymphedema. She received local, national, and international awards for her research. Dr. Ridner remains a funded researcher, and as a part-time faculty member at Vanderbilt University, she is the Co-Primary Investigator for a multisite, national study that is testing a treatment approach for head and neck cancer patients who develop lymphedema. She continues to publish research and mentor others. Dr. Ridner now resides on her family farm in Fordsville where she and her husband raise Kathadin sheep and enjoy the scenic beauty.

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Disclosures: I have no financial or non-financial interests.