

## About Baruch

Baruch Brody earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College and studied at Oxford University as a Fulbright Fellow prior to obtaining a doctorate in philosophy from Princeton University. He served on the Rice University faculty from 1975 to 2018, when he became the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities, and as chair of the [Department of Philosophy](#) from 1975 to 1982.



Baruch A. Brody, PhD (1943-2018)

In 1982, Baruch began a long and fruitful association with Baylor College of Medicine and Houston Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. He served as the founding director of the [Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy](#) at Baylor College of Medicine from 1982 until 2012. He also served as director of Houston Methodist Hospital's joint venture with Baylor, the [Biomedical Ethics Program](#), from 1985 until 2012.

Baruch won support from the Ford Foundation for a Program on Biotechnology, Religion and Ethics, which was multi-year collaboration between Rice University and Baylor College of Medicine that explored ways in which religious responses to biotechnology are shaped by different views of nature and how those responses influence public policy and resulted in a two volume book, *Altering Nature*.

As one of America's leading bioethicists, Baruch was among the first scholars in his field of applied ethics to tackle abortion in the era following the Roe v. Wade decision. He authored more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and a dozen books on ethics and philosophy, including *Taking Issue: Pluralism and Casuistry in Bioethics*, *Life and Death Decision Making*, and *The Ethics of Biomedical Research: An International Perspective*.

Baruch was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences in 2001 and was awarded Baylor's highest research honor, the Michael E. DeBaakey Research Award, in 2002. He served as president of the Society for Health and Human Values and on the board of the American Philosophical Association, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 from the American Society for Bioethics and the Medical Humanities.

Throughout the years, Baruch pursued research activities to topics outside of applied ethics and bioethics, including philosophy of law, philosophy of science, logic, and epistemology. He had a particular interest in the philosophy of religion, and his courses on this topic at Rice were always oversubscribed. He took pride in the fact that since he began teaching at MIT in 1968, he never once re-used the same syllabus for a course. In both his undergraduate and graduate seminars, he met with every student before they submitted their final paper, and served as a dedicated advisor to many accomplished graduate students at Rice and Baylor. He regularly cited his work at Methodist as evidence that philosophers could apply their ideas to address real-world dilemmas and impressed this belief onto his students.

Baruch was a graduate of the Chaim Berlin rabbinic seminary and was a regular participant in Jewish medical ethics conferences throughout his career. He co-authored an article in 2001 with son Shlomo — a well-known writer who authors the "Ask a Rabbi" column in *The Jerusalem Post* — to defend the position that Jewish law allows donation of organs from brain-dead patients to save lives. In 2015, Baruch celebrated 50 years of marriage to Dena. They have three sons and 13 grandchildren.