



# Robley Evans (1907-1995)

You could say that Robley Evans' career began at CalTech in the early 1930s when Robert Millikan introduced him to a member of the Los Angeles County Health Department. At that time, the health department was dealing with many companies that were manufacturing potentially deadly radium-containing quack medicines, and they needed technical assistance. Evan's interest and concern about radium was piqued.

Shortly thereafter, he accepted a position at MIT where he built a counting system to measure radium in the bodies of radium dial painters. This system was used for the first quantitative in-vivo measurements of a radionuclide in the human body. X-ray imaging systems, so common in today's hospitals, can be considered direct descendants of his original counter. Much of his research included pioneering investigations into radium's metabolism and hazards as well as methods for mitigating these hazards.



*Under the direction of Dr. Robley Evans, Nancy Caldwell demonstrates how a sample of breath is taken for studies of the long-term effects of radium on the body.*

