Arthur J. Prange, Jr. died April 6, 2024. He was 97 years old.

After graduating from high school Prange served briefly in the U.S. Navy toward the end of World War 2. He attended college and later medical school at the University of Michigan. He graduated in medicine in 1950 as his wife of five months, born Sarah E. Bowen, graduated with a major in art studies. During the following years they had four children.

After graduate training in general medicine and anesthesiology Prange was called to serve in the Korean War. After other assignments Prange was appointed medical officer of the U.S.S. Briareus.

On July 1, 1954, Prange became the first member of the first regular residency class in psychiatry at the medical school of the University of North Carolina. After his residency he was appointed an instructor in psychiatry. Decades later he served two years as acting chairman of the department. After 35 years he retired as the Boshamer Professor of Psychiatry.

Early in his career Prange became interested in research, due in large part to guidance provided by his mentor, the late Morris Lipton. Along with his friend, the late Ian Wilson, Prange established a clinical research program at the Dorothea Dix Hospital. Along with his friend, the late Preston Walker, and others, Prange established the Foundation of Hope, a group that provides start-up funding for psychiatric research.

In the course of his clinical and laboratory research Prange contributed to the training of many clinicians and Ph.D. candidates. As a result of his work, he won a variety of national and international awards. From the National Institute of Mental Health, he held a career scientist award longer than any other awardee apart from his friend the late Arnold Friedhoff of New York University.

Prange was a long-time member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. Over the years he held every elective office of that organization including its presidency.

Prange’s scientific work focused on the interplay between the nervous system and the endocrine system, particularly the thyroid system. He and his colleagues thought that a fast-acting form of a thyroid system hormone would simplify the action of certain antidepressant drugs. When other science-based investigators, winning the Nobel Prize, announced the structure of the hormone that connects the brain to the anterior pituitary gland, Prange and his clinical colleagues showed that this molecule by itself exerted antidepressant effects in patients.

Prange and his second wife, Margery Kay Cooper, enjoyed many travel adventures after they had both retired. They visited many states and three continents along with Australia and New Zealand. Prange was an enthusiastic hunter and fisherman when time and energy allowed. He supported many conservation groups and contributed to general support for the University of Michigan and the University of North Carolina.

Prange is survived by his four children Christine Prange Rappoport, Martha L. Prange, Laura B. Prange, and David E. Prange. There are 11 grandchildren.