How can we understand this extraordinary man, who came from depression and war and Nazi occupation and arrived in this country with only his medical degree and a few words of English? How did this man become one of the dominant figures of American gastroenterology, a prominent scientist who made seminal contributions to the fields of bile acids, cholestasis, and gallstones, who nurtured the careers of so many other researchers, a teacher who by precept and example taught generations of doctors to take care of sick people and to understand the science of disease, a skilled administrator who nurtured the GI division to national prominence, and a friend who touched the lives and hearts of thousands of people around the world?

To each of us in the GI group he took an almost fatherly interest, nurturing our careers and delighting in our occasional successes, and protecting us from the many bureaucratic intrusions that every day threatened to derail us. In my own case, there were times when Reno’s steady encouragement was the only thing that kept me going. He saw things in me that I couldn’t see in myself and convinced me to keep plugging and achieve things that I couldn’t even imagine. What success I have had, I owe to his guidance and inspiration. I know that many other people who served under him feel the same way. Reno was guided by an exquisite sense of honor and personal integrity. He was the most utterly reliable human being I have ever known. If he said it, it was so. If he promised it, it was delivered. His word was his bond. He detected lies and duplicity, though he didn’t mind a certain amount of despicability for a good cause. He expected loyalty and he returned that loyalty ten times over. People trusted him because he was always worthy of trust. In his own phrase, he was a man with whom you could hunt tigers.

Contributed by Doug Heuman, M.D.
On The Wards

Dear Colleagues:

As July is the best month to be an attending physician on the wards, the excitement and energies of the new housestaff create an electricity in the air signaling the beginning of a new year. The freshness of their perspectives and their inquisitiveness call into question our routine assumptions, and we begin to reassess daily practices. This is the ideal function of members of the Medical Academy in our roles investigating the complex illnesses of patients entering our hospital and seeking the best care.

A key factor in patient care is our dedicated housestaff, who work diligently continually reviewing the stability of ill patients. They are also cost conscious, aware of the need for early discharge, ordering the final lab test, prescribing outpatient medications, arranging the patient’s ride home, the follow-up patient visits or home health care—all coordinated for an efficient time of discharge. They do all of this with patience frequently on six separate wards in two hospitals. They make a difference.

What is striking in broad strokes is the high prevalence of substance abuse and cigarette smoking in our patient population, the growing epidemic of Hepatitis C, and the number of elderly patients who live alone and cannot be easily discharged after the acute problems are managed because reconditioning and rehabilitation are often needed. Yet what is amazing is the breadth of clinical problems uncovered and not previously identified—all of Medicine comes through our doors!

One quickly appreciates the continued high acuity of illness and the dynamic changes that can occur day to day among inpatients. A patient with HIV infection, Hepatitis B, and chronic Hepatitis C who develops new acute renal failure, or a patient with Idiopathic Hypertension, Subarachnoid Hemorrhage, and end-stage renal failure who becomes hypotensive with dialysis are examples. Fortunately, with the complexity of illnesses the expertise of accessible subspecialists makes a favorable impact on patient outcomes.

Surely everyone recognizes the competing time pressures for clinical and administrative tasks versus educational activities while attending on the wards. Yet the currently designed templates for recording initial history and physical examinations greatly reduce the time needed for documentation of care, are easy to use yet detailed, and still allow the housestaff to document clinical events with precision. The hour-to-hour clinical demands for our nursing colleagues are impressive and they always have much to contribute. We are very fortunate to have the special expertise of the nurses and skill of the pharmacists on rounds.

Despite the barriers imposed by managed care or societal changes, the Academy works well because the members of the team have a single focus—the welfare of the patients. We have a dedicated faculty and housestaff and are fortunate to have strong colleagues in nursing, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and social work on our wards.

Richard P. Wenckel, M.D., M.S.
William Branch Porter Professor and Chairman

Department of Internal Medicine Faculty on Numerous Editorial Boards

Scholarship on our faculty is of the highest order. This is demonstrated by the numerous editorial appointments held by faculty members. The following list of editorial positions held is not exhaustive but is clearly indicative of our scholarly leadership.

Dr. Robert Adler
Associate Editor: The Journal of Clinical Densitometry
Associate Editor: The American Journal of Physiology: Endocrinology and Metabolism
Dr. Gordon Archer
Editorial Board: Anesthesiology and Chemotherapy
Associate Editor: Plasmapheresis
Dr. Kevin Cooper
Editor-in-Chief: The Virginia Pulmonary Journal

Dr. Steven Grant
Associate Editor: Clinical Cancer
Associate Editor: Research, Molecular and Cellular Differentiation, Frontiers in Resection

Dr. Bruce Hillner
Associate Editor: Evidence Based Oncology
Associate Editor: Medical Decision Making
Associate Editor: Internal Medicine Alert

Paula K. Horwitz, Ph.D.
Editorial Board: The Journal of Teaching in the Addictions

Dr. Rakesh Khokha
Associate Editor: American Journal of Physiology (Heart & Circulatory Physiology)
Associate Editor: Journal of Cellular and Molecular Cardiology
Associate Editor: Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry

Dr. John E. Neelser
Editorial Board: Juroveh
Editorial Board: The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism

Dr. Mary Nettan
North American Editor: Clinical Performance and Quality Health Care
Section Editor: Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology

Dr. Sean Rudd
Senior Editor: Textbook of Rheumatology
Section Editor: Rheumatology Section for Scientific American Medicine

Dr. Sidney Schnoll
Editorial Board: The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse
Editor: Addiction Medicine Education Series (AMES)
Editorial Board: Journal of Addictive Diseases
Editorial Review Board: Journal of Psychopharmacology

Dr. Lawrence Schwartz
Section Editor: Journal of Immunology

Dr. Mitchell Shillman
Associate Editor: Digestive Diseases

Dr. Domenic Sica
Section Editor: American Journal of Medical Sciences, Hyperinfection Section
Section Editor: Pharmacotherapy of Drugs, Seminars in Nephrology
Section Editor: Pharmacotherapy in Congestive Heart Failure, Congestive Heart Failure
Section Editor: Current Concepts in Pharmacology
American Journal of Medical Sciences
Section Editor: Hypertension Primary, Pharmacotherapy Section
Section Editor: Journal of Clinical Hypertension

Dr. Thomas Smith
Editorial Board: Journal of Palliative Medicine
Editorial Board: Evidence Based Oncology
Assistant Editor: Journal of Clinical Oncology
Medical Advisory Board: InTouch, The Good Health Guide to Cancer Prevention and Treatment
Editorial Board: Oncology

Dr. On Topaz
Editorial Board: Lasers in Medical Science

Dr. George Votvasa
Associate Editor: Cardiothoracic and Cardiovascular Disease Journal
Editorial Board: Journal of Interventional Cardiology
Editorial Board: Trends in Cardiovascular Disease
Editorial Board: American Heart Journal
Editorial Board: The Journal of the American College of Cardiology
Editorial Board: The Journal of Invasive Cardiology
Editorial Board: The American Journal of Cardiology
Editorial Board: Cardiovascular Therapeutics
Editorial Board: Cardiology Today
Editorial Board: Heart Disease
Editorial Board: Cardiology at Dye

Dr. Richard Wiznitz
Editorial Board: The New England Journal of Medicine
Editorial Board: Clinical Infectious Diseases
Editorial Board: Sepsis
Editorial Board: The American Journal of Medicine
Editorial Board: National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Publications “Clinical Updates in Infectious Diseases” Editorial Board: Informalidades Infecciosas y Microbiología Clínica (Journal of the Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology)

Dr. Dawn Wilson
Associate Editor: Annals of Behavioral Medicine, for the Society of Behavior Medicine
Consulting Editor: Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
In Memoriam: Z. Reno Vlahcevic, M.D.

How can we understand this extraordinary man, who came from depression and war and Nazi occupation and arrived in this country with only his medical degree and a few words of English? How did this man become one of the dominant figures of American gastroenterology, a pioneer scientist who made seminal contributions to the fields of bile acids, cholesterosis, and gallstones; who nurtured the careers of so many other researchers; a teacher who by precept and example taught generations of doctors to take care of sick people and to understand the science of disease; a skilled administrator who nurtured his GI division to national prominence; and a friend who touched the lives and hearts of thousands of people around the world?

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Contributed by Doug Heuman, M.D.