In Memoriam

John G. Robinson, MD ’45, died on October 9, 2006, in Oxford Village nursing facility at Canterbury Woods, in Amherst, NY. He was 89.

Robinson was born in Delaware, OH, and attended Ohio Wesleyan University. Following graduation from the UB School of Medicine, he was commissioned into the Public Health Service and was assigned to psychiatric services at hospitals in Baltimore and Ellis Island.

After the war, Robinson joined UB, where he served on the faculty in the Department of Psychiatry for 35 years. He developed the first UB Alcoholism Rehabilitation Clinic and served as its chief psychiatrist. In 1951, he was named chief psychiatrist at E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital, and in 1962, he was appointed associate professor in the UB School of Medicine.

In 1964, Robinson studied at the Institute for Community Psychiatry and was a member of the Inter-University Forum for educators in community psychiatry at Duke University, which promoted the concept of community mental health services.

From 1970 to 1972, he served as chair of the medical school’s admissions committee, where he promoted affirmative action.

In 1975, Robinson was named chief psychiatrist at Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Buffalo, where he focused on the treatment of veterans of the Vietnam War who suffered from posttraumatic stress disorder. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Pauline; two sons, Craig H. and Girard E.; and a daughter, Mary J. Harper.

Roger W. Seibel, MD ’66, a surgeon who helped found the trauma unit at Erie County Medical Center (ECMC), died February 13, 2007, in the Cleveland Clinic after a brief illness. He was 66.

A native of Lancaster, NY, Seibel graduated from Lancaster High School, the University of Vermont and the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

He completed a medical internship and began his residency at E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital, now ECMC, before he joined the Air Force in 1968.

He served as a surgeon stationed in Texas for a year and in Vietnam for another year, rising to the rank of captain. After his military service, Seibel completed his residency at the Meyer.

He taught surgery and orthopaedics at UB from 1974 to the present, most recently holding the title of clinical professor of surgery and orthopaedics.

Seibel joined the staff in ECMC’s surgery department in 1973 and held a number of positions there, including clinical and assistant director of surgery. He was instrumental in founding ECMC’s trauma unit, which was one of the first in the United States and which became one of the busiest trauma centers in the state.

At the time of his death, Seibel was director of ECMC’s burn-treatment center and its trauma services, as well as medical director of the Regional Evaluation for Quality Improvement in Trauma.

He also served as director of state prison surgical services at the medical center, coordinating a surgical clinic at Wende Correctional Facility.

In addition, he directed a surgery and orthopaedic clinic at Buffalo Psychiatric Center.

Seibel was a board-certified member of the American Board of Surgery, an advanced trauma life-support instructor and an advanced burn life-support instructor.

He was honored in 1995 at ECMC’s Springfest Award Dinner and recently was named the state’s Physician of Distinction for 2006.

Seibel is survived by his wife of 25 years, Kathleen Hassett Seibel; two sons, Mark W. and Todd D.; and a brother, Leon A.

Surviving are his wife of 25 years, Kathleen Hassett Seibel; two sons, Mark W. and Todd D.; and a brother, Leon A.

In memory of Dr. Seibel, a fund has been established to support resident education in the Department of Surgery. To make a gift to The Roger W. Seibel, MD Memorial Residents’ Fund, call the Office of Advancement at 716-829-2773, or toll free 1-877-826-3246, or return the giving envelope included in this issue and indicate “Seibel Residents’ Fund” in the gift support section.

Where did you earn your undergraduate degree, and what did you major in?

I attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where I earned a bachelor of science degree in brain and cognitive sciences, with a minor in Spanish.

Why did you choose UB Medical School?

The first thing I liked about UB was the people, especially in the Office of Medical Education. If I had to do it over again, I would choose UB, not only for the people and student organizations, but for its new high-tech facilities, the physician mentors, the diverse and interesting patient population, and Elmwood Avenue.

How did your scholarship make a difference?

One of the most humbling things about being a medical student is opening up your loan letter and seeing the cumulative amount in medical school tuition jumping out at you. It’s like buying a brand new car, every year, for four years. I am extremely grateful for UB’s scholarship program because it made a difference in helping me decide where to attend medical school. When I learned that I was a Sun Scholar, my first thought was that surprise of a Buffalo physician could have such faith in my abilities as to provide me with financial assistance to encourage my medical training. I felt honored.

What would you tell others who are interested in UB Medical School?

Students may be concerned that UB does not have a university hospital. From what I’ve heard from upperclassmen, this, in fact, turns out to be an unexpected strength. Third- and fourth-year students are trained to adapt to a variety of different hospital settings and staff, and so they become prepared to excel in any future medical environment. If you come to UB, in four years you’ll leave a well-trained physician.

Help UB Medicine reach its goal and enroll the best and brightest students with your gift to the Practice Giving campaign. To make a gift simply complete and return the giving envelope included in this issue, or make your gift online by visiting www.practicegiving.org.

Learn more about how to include UB in your will and the benefits of deferred gifts for the Medical Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund by contacting the Office of Advancement at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at 716-829-2773 or Toll Free 1-877-826-3246.