Special Chair Update - Two Legendary Faculty

Retirements do not happen often. On June 30th, 2017 Drs. Richard Moxley and David Wang will be retiring. They both will become Emeritus Professors in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Department, School and University.

They both started in the Department in 1974, 43 years ago, Dick as a faculty and David as a resident. And they stayed, one practicing primarily adult neurology (Dick) and the other (David) child neurology, but each doing a little bit of both along the way.

Dick is a true academic and was a translational neuroscientist decades before it became mainstream. Yes, he established and grew world class research programs in muscular dystrophy; yes, these programs have led to defining and re-defining the standards of care that have improved the quality of life of patients around the globe; yes, his insights have led to a better understanding of disease mechanisms that are now leading to groundbreaking therapies; yes, he has mentored many who now are continuing the work he started. Despite his success as a scientist, he equally excelled as a consummate clinician and passionate educator.

Dick is so much more than an academic. He is a sports enthusiast who never lost that southern charm and love of the Crimson Tide. He is a family man who likes nothing more than treating his entire family, children, grandchildren on grand excursions across the globe. And could he strike up a conversation – on just about any topic. Most of you know what I’m talking about; charisma, energy, kindness, and Brownian motion that electrified and motivated all those around him.

David is a true academic and was a patient-centered extremist decades before it became mainstream. David has had more impact than he will ever take credit for. He spent his first 25 years as a faculty at Rochester General Hospital before joining the Child Neurology Division in 2002. Superb clinician-teachers are in short supply and David has educated countless residents and medical students receiving many teaching awards over the years. Despite his success as a master clinician-educator, he equally excelled as a scholar and clinical trialist particularly for the most vulnerable children, such as those with severe intractable epilepsy.

David has always been a quiet technophile. He used home videography to aid in the diagnosis of epilepsy and non-epileptic events in children well before videocassette recorders became obsolete. He used this important diagnostic method as a teaching tool with global impact having taught at multiple medical centers in Taiwan and the Republic of China. David had the early insights of anticipating how technology will change the practice of medicine and continues to be a strong advocate for tele-neurology to improve access for patients with epilepsy. David gives so much more than he takes and has one of the highest G:T ratios that I know (give-to-take ratios). Those who know David would agree.

We will be celebrating their careers. Dick’s celebration will be Monday June 19th from 1:00-4:00pm in Evarts Lounge at the School of Nursing. David’s celebration will be June 21st from 1:00-5:00pm also in the Evarts Lounge. Please join us!

Richard Moxley and David Wang have brought both joy and triumph to the field of neurology and our Department. They have made working in this Department fun and rewarding. As they move on beyond neurology, they will undoubtedly continue to inspire, as they take on new adventures. I know I speak for the entire Department when I say they have been more than wonderful “physicians, teachers, mentors, and friends” to us all – just like their mentors before them. For all of that and much more, we will miss them and bid each of these legendary faculty a fond farewell.

Meliora, Bob