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URMC Today

Profile of Excellence: Bob Holloway

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The 2013 Joynt Kindness Board Excellence Award in the Physician category is presented [Robert G. Holloway, M.D., M.P.H.](#), the Edward A. and Alma Vollertsen Rykenboer Chair in Neurophysiology and Chair of the Department of Neurology.

[Mark B. Taubman, M.D.](#), dean of the URM School of Medicine and Dentistry, calls Holloway the “epitome of the academic ‘triple

threat.” For his teaching excellence, Holloway has been recognized by his colleagues and students on numerous occasions. His role with the Clinical and Translation Science Institute, leadership of a NIH-funded research network for neurological disorders, and his authorship of numerous papers in publications like the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *JAMA* are testaments to his scientific contributions.



Holloway is also a true apostle of the principles of patient- and family-centered care, and it's for these principles that he is recognized with this award. He considers himself a general neurologist with broad interests in those serious neurological disorders that can greatly impact longevity and quality of life, including stroke, Parkinson's disease, dementia, multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy.

Having committed his career to improving the patient-centeredness of neurological care, Holloway's particular focus is on improving communication and decision-making among patients, their families, and physicians. Holloway has also never shied from the kind of self reflection that, while uncomfortable at times, is necessary to improve the delivery of care; his thought-provoking commentaries and research on disparities in care and end-of-life issues have contributed to the national dialogue on these subjects.

"I have known Dr. Holloway for more than 20 years, since he was a neurology resident, and he has practiced patient-focused care long before it was a buzzword," said Kathy England, senior nurse practitioner with UR Medicine's Strong Epilepsy Center. "He is values-driven when he cares for patients and when interacting with faculty and staff in the department."

This compassion is evident in Holloway's past work with people with developmental disabilities—in those days, he would make frequent "house calls" to group homes to see patients unable to make it to the doctor's office. That same compassion also shows itself in his carving out time from a hectic schedule to return a patient's phone call—always.

"No other physician I worked with in my 39 years of nursing at UPMC is as kind and caring as Dr. Holloway," said England. "Kindness is his guiding force and is apparent in everything he does."

Since becoming Chair of the Neurology Department, Holloway is credited with creating an open, inclusive, and honest environment. His accessibility, genuine interactions with clinical and administrative staff, and his inclusion and empowerment of faculty and staff in the Department's operations and future direction have brought to the department a new *esprit de corps*.

As a physician who was mentored by the late Robert Joynt, M.D., Ph.D., and followed in his footsteps to become Chair of Neurology, there is perhaps no more fitting recipient of the 2013 Joynt Board Excellence Award than Holloway.

The Dr. Robert Joynt Kindness Board Excellence Award debuted in 2013 in honor of [Robert J. Joynt, M.D., Ph.D.](#), who was a towering figure in international circles of neurology and a longtime, beloved member of the medical center's community. He was known for his integrity, wit, generosity—and his unconditional kindness. Joynt demonstrated a level of compassion in his work that should live on to be an inspiration to us all.

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