

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ARVIN B. WEINSTEIN

Emeritus Professor Arvin B. Weinstein died at age 81 on March 22, 2001. Dr. Weinstein was a nephrologist who initiated the University of Wisconsin Artificial Kidney Dialysis Program in 1962. Ironically, he was sustained on dialysis for the final two years of his life.

Arvin was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin; at an early age he moved to Madison where he graduated from Madison West High School in 1937. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Wisconsin. Following completion of his residency training in Internal Medicine at UW in 1948, Arvin began practicing as a general internist in Madison. In 1955 he enlisted in the Army Medical Corps. In 1957, after serving as chief of the cardiovascular service at the William Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso, Texas, Arvin returned to the Medical School as a fellow in the cardiovascular research laboratory. Soon thereafter, he began to develop an interest in nephrology. He performed the first percutaneous kidney biopsies at University Hospital and became a consultant in kidney diseases. He was encouraged to begin a dialysis program, which he initiated after he received training from Dr. Willem Kolff at the Cleveland Clinic. Under Arvin's leadership, peritoneal dialysis was introduced in 1963, followed by patient self-care home peritoneal and hemodialysis training programs.

Arvin assumed a leadership role in the Wisconsin chapter of the National Kidney Foundation, where he was a tireless advocate for patients with kidney disease. In the early 1970s, he became very active in the National Kidney Foundation and helped to influence Congress to establish a medicare entitlement program to support the care of patients requiring dialysis or transplantation. Arvin ultimately became president of the National Kidney Foundation in 1976 and continued as an influential spokesman in support of care for kidney patients.

Arvin became a full professor in 1970. He made major contributions to a rapidly evolving UW Medical School curriculum as a member of the Medical School Curriculum Committee. He was a major force in developing the second-year course in pathophysiology. Arvin also directed the Department of Medicine curriculum for third-year students for several years and introduced many creative innovations. He was revered as a master clinician who, for over three decades, served as a superb role model for both medical students and post graduate trainees. He was clearly ahead of his time in his tireless advocacy for the dignity and rights of all patients. An aspect of Arvin's service to the university that was not prominently recognized at the time was his major role in developing the new UW Clinical Sciences Center. This required an enormous commitment of time and energy. Arvin's fairness, creativity and excellent judgment gained the confidence of his colleagues who invested in him their trust in planning the new hospital.

In 1986 Arvin retired from the faculty in order to pursue full-time one of his other great interests—archeology and anthropology. He enrolled as a visiting student and took courses over a period of ten years at the UW. He actively participated in discussions and seminars and traveled to Africa, Arizona and western Wisconsin to take part in archeological digs. The intellectual challenges which were involved, the lively give and take of classroom discussion, and the stimulating relationships with his fellow students and his professors were sources of great pleasure to him during the last 15 years of his life.

Arvin was a man of great dignity and fairness, who had a passion for addressing the injustices of our health care system. Patients with kidney disease were fortunate to have him as their advocate. The End-Stage Renal Disease Program, which he so effectively promoted, now serves as our only federally

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financed disease-specific patient care program. His career serves as a stimulus for our students and house staff to become involved in advocating for their patients, recognizing that they, as did Dr. Arvin B. Weinstein, can make a difference.

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