

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JAMES B. SKATRUD**

James B. Skatrud, MD, professor emeritus, Department of Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care Section, died on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2006. His life both before and after his diagnosis of lung cancer reflected his love of family, his appreciation of friends and colleagues, and his dedication to the field of medicine. His personal integrity and caring nature as well as the pursuit of excellence were hallmarks of his life.

Born Jan. 23, 1947, son of Bennet and Alice Skatrud, Jim grew up in Manitowoc and received his undergraduate degree (1969) and his M.D. degree (1972) from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison. Jim married Ellen Burns in 1970, and had two sons, Michael and Gregory, as well as two granddaughters. He completed an internal medicine residency at S.U.N.Y. Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York (1972-1975) and pulmonary medicine fellowship at the University of Wisconsin Hospital (1975-1977). He was board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in the areas of internal medicine, pulmonary disease, critical care medicine, and sleep medicine.

Dr. Skatrud was an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Wisconsin from 1977-1983. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1984 and to a professor of medicine in 1989. Faculty appointments at the University of Wisconsin-Madison included head of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Section from 1984-2004. Appointments at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Administration Hospital in Madison included chief of the Pulmonary Medicine and Pulmonary Physiology Sections, medical director of Respiratory Therapy, Medical Intensive Care Unit, Pulmonary Physiology Laboratory, Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy Service, and Sleep Laboratory.

Dr. Skatrud made significant contributions to the understanding of regulation of breathing during sleep and played a major role in developing the concept of apneic threshold and highlighting cardiovascular consequences of sleep disordered breathing. His laboratory remained continuously funded through NIH and VA merit grants and was instrumental in training residents, fellows, doctoral and post-doctoral students and junior faculty. Several of Dr. Skatrud's trainees have gone on to have successful careers of their own, thanks in large part to his exceptional mentoring and support. His research resulted in more than one hundred papers and book chapters in addition to numerous presentations. He served on the American Lung Association of Wisconsin Research Committee and chaired the Tri-State Thoracic Society. At the national level, he was active in the American Thoracic Society as a chair-elect then chair of the Program Committee (1997-1999), a member of the Long Range Planning Committee (1998-1999) and on the Sleep Medicine in Pulmonary Training Program Committee (2003-2004). He also served on the editorial board of the Journal of Applied Physiology (1996-1999). Dr. Skatrud was one of the Department of Medicine and UW Medical School's most exceptional teachers. He participated in teaching students, residents, fellows and colleagues at UW-Madison and at the regional, national and international levels. His lectures were delivered with extreme clarity stemming from a deep understanding of the topic and his unusual ability at simplifying complex concepts.

In recognition of his major contributions, the James B. Skatrud Award for excellence in teaching and mentoring was established by his fellows and colleagues. In addition, the UW Rankin/Skatrud Travel Award for students and fellows presenting their research at national-international meetings was created. The Wisconsin Thoracic Society also created an award in his honor for the best presentation by a trainee at its annual meeting, and the American Thoracic Society, with support from his colleagues across the country, established the James B. Skatrud Award for support of young investigators in sleep medicine. Dr.

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Skatrud was a rare “triple threat” in the academic arena: skilled physician, exceptional teacher and accomplished researcher. He is dearly missed by all who knew him.

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