

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS CHARLES C. LOBECK JR.**

Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics Dr. Charles C. Lobeck, Jr., who held key leadership positions across three decades at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, died in Green Valley, Arizona, on July 20, 2012 at age 86.

Originally from New York State, “Chuck” served in the United States Army Air Force from 1944 to 1946. He rose to the rank of sergeant, an experience that taught him leadership skills that would help him throughout his career.

He graduated from Hobart College in Geneva, New York in 1948, and then received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1952. His dedication to the care of children led Dr. Lobeck to choose graduate medical education in pediatrics. He completed his internship in pediatrics at Grace-New Haven Community Hospital at Yale University and his residency in pediatrics at Strong Memorial Hospital at the University of Rochester.

Chuck began his tenure at UW-Madison in 1958 as an assistant professor of pediatrics, quickly establishing a research program in cystic fibrosis. His interest in this life threatening autosomal recessive genetic disease and his leadership roles in the U.S. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation led him to found the University of Wisconsin Cystic Fibrosis Center as a program dedicated to care, teaching and research. He distinguished himself in the field for three decades and was widely regarded as an authority on cystic fibrosis. On a national level, he promoted the establishment of more cystic fibrosis centers through his continued leadership of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, today one of the premier organizations of its kind.

Chuck was a highly respected administrative leader at the Medical School, serving first as chair of the Department of Pediatrics from 1964 to 1974. He developed the young department into a nationally recognized academic and clinical success by recruiting quality clinician scholars, expanding it from five faculty members when he took over to 29 by the time he left. His leadership strategy was to promote a balanced development of care, teaching and research anchored by a pervasive devotion to improving the health of children. With his congenial personality and inspiring leadership style, Dr. Lobeck mentored effectively and gave his faculty the freedom to create innovative programs. These nationally recognized innovations included the creation of the multidisciplinary bioethics program, among the first of its kind in American medical schools. With Dr. Lobeck’s facilitation, the pediatrics faculty progressed toward specialization and were among the pioneers in a variety of subdisciplines such as neonatology. Other innovative programs were also developed collaboratively with faculty in other departments and schools across the campus. Serving children throughout the state and beyond, thanks to Chuck’s leadership, his department developed a tradition of fulfilling the *Wisconsin Idea*.

In keeping with the philosophy of the Department of Pediatrics that a ten-year chairmanship is optimal, Chuck resigned in 1974 and was appointed director of clinical affairs at UW Hospital and Clinics and associate dean at the Medical School. In 1975, he was appointed dean of the University of Missouri School of Medicine and broadened his medical education leadership activities, including participation in national reforms. Chuck’s love of Wisconsin, however, brought him back to UW-Madison in 1984.

On his return to the Madison campus, as professor of pediatrics, Chuck was appointed associate dean for academic affairs at the Medical School and catalyzed several of the innovative developments in medical education that he had been promoting nationally. He conceived the class mentor program, an imaginative

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method of using retired physician-teachers to advise current medical students. He also was instrumental in the enhancement of primary care education at the school, an effort that the departments of family medicine, pediatrics and medicine all found extremely valuable. Soon thereafter, other medical schools began to emulate the "Wisconsin Way" of emphasizing primary care education and helping address the national shortage primary care physicians which continues today.

Chuck became professor emeritus of pediatrics and preventive medicine in 1991. In tribute to him, the school created the Charles C. Lobeck Lectureship, presently held annually on Medical Education Day at the school, and the Department of Pediatrics created the Charles Lobeck Teaching Award for outstanding teaching of pediatrics to medical students. He also remained connected with cystic fibrosis research and served as an advisor to Wisconsin's newborn screening randomized clinical trial supported by NIH.

Chuck also continued for many years as a medical consultant for Project Headstart, and as a member of the National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation, the board of trustees for the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, and Wisconsin's Rural Health Development Council. Eventually, he retired to Arizona.

Chuck led with a warm, self-effacing style that endeared him to countless students and colleagues.

He is survived by Isabelle Emerson Lobeck, whom he married in 1954, and four children.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE  
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