

**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison  
on the Death of Professor Emeritus Robert F. Schilling**

Beloved alumnus, professor and Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association co-founder Emeritus Washburn Professor Robert Schilling, M.D. (U.W. Medical School Class of 1943), passed away at his home September 30, 2014.

Dr. Schilling is considered an icon by his colleagues and former students for his outstanding teaching and research accomplishments.

Dr. Schilling received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He received postdoctoral training at Philadelphia General Hospital in West Philadelphia, Boston City Hospital in Boston, and at University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison.

As an undergraduate at UW during the era of Badger baseball, Schilling was a Big Ten batting champion, and thankfully he turned down an offer to play professional baseball to pursue his medical studies. He served our country at the height of World War Two, serving as an assistant battalion surgeon in the Marine Corps in Guam and Iwo Jima.

Dr. Schilling joined our faculty in 1951. He quickly became known internationally for his seminal studies of vitamin B12 and pernicious anemia. On an historic day in 1953 he drank a solution containing one microgram of radioactive vitamin B12, which led to the development of the gold standard test for defective vitamin B12 absorption, known internationally today as “the Schilling Test.” His investigations resulted in an enormously important body of scientific work, as well as numerous awards and recognitions. He received a very prestigious and highly competitive lifelong research career award from the National Institutes of Health and served as chairman of the hematology section of the American Board of Internal Medicine and president of the Central Society for Clinical Research. He was honored as a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of London and “College Master” by the American College of Physicians. Dr. Schilling served as the chair of our Department of Medicine from 1964 to 1971. He voluntarily relinquished his NIH lifetime research career award so that he could fully dedicate himself to the duties of that leadership position. In 2014, he received the Folkert Belzer Award, in recognition of his lifetime contributions to the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and to the nation.

Even as he gained world-wide recognition, Dr. Schilling remained fiercely devoted to his students and patients here at UW-Madison. The number of students that Dr. Schilling has inspired is beyond counting. He taught our second-year hematology course for over 5 decades up until the fall of 2006. He once described teaching as “a permanent joy, because every year there is a new crop of young people.” He remained an active member of our Alumni Association and our faculty until his death in 2014.

Dr. Schilling is survived by his second wife, Marilyn Johnsrud Schilling, his life partner and best friend for over 40 years. He is also survived by his children, Robert, Fredericka, Richard, and Anne and stepchildren Kristen and Eric and their spouses and children. He was predeceased by his first wife Mariam and their daughter Carla.

He is dearly missed.

Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Resolution Committee:

Patrick McBride	Elizabeth Silverman
Deane Mosher	Eliot Williams
Bradford Schwartz	Robert Woodson