Beloved biochemistry faculty member, founder of the student retreat, and inaugural associate dean of faculty affairs Henry W. Strobel, PhD, 76, died in his sleep Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, in Houston.

In Memoriam

HENRY W. STROBEL, JR., PhD

An original faculty member of the newly established The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Strobel joined the faculty as an assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in 1972. He rose up through the faculty ranks—named professor in 1984, served as acting chair of the department in 1984, and named professor emeritus in 2016. “Henry was an icon of our school,” said Michael R. Blackburn, PhD, executive vice president and chief academic officer of UTHealth. “Nobody, in the history of our incredible institution, impacted students, faculty, and traditions by establishing a student orientation retreat and an international administrative capacities and made an indelible mark upon the school’s culture and traditions by establishing a student orientation retreat and an international administrative structure to which Henry’s idea from the start,” said Alan Friedman, MD ’86, past president of the Alumni’s Alumni. “Without him, there never would have been one.” “He was just a great man. I kind of think of Dr. Strobel as Mr. Rogers—thoughtful, kind, thinking of other people, just trying to make other people’s lives better. He always cared for the medical students and brought kindness to the school,” said Justin Linkous, MD ’91. Strobel was the medical school’s first associate dean for faculty affairs after having served as chair of the Faculty Promotions Committee for a number of years. He was also involved with student affairs, 1977–96, and associate dean for alumni relations, 2000–15. Strobel wrote: “As I reflect on my life/career, I think that the things I enjoyed and enjoy the most are those opportunities and activities that facilitate the ability of others to give the gifts they have and to be the persons they are. There have been many such opportunities for me at the university level and beyond, and I am thankful for them all.”

Henry W. Strobel, PhD, Freshman Retreat Fund to help underwrite the costs of future retreats. “The retreat was Henry’s idea from the start,” said Alan Friedman, MD ’86, past president of the Alumni’s Alumni. “Without him, there never would have been one.”

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION IN MEMORY OF DR. STROBEL PLEASE VISIT GIVING.UTH.EDU/MEMORIAL

Following five years of exemplary service to McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, Barbara Stoll, MD, has retired from her role as dean. During her tenure, Stoll has fostered a culture of collegiality, openness, academic excellence, and collaboration, and led the first fresh year orientation retreat at UTHealth, said Matt Harting, MD ’03, assistant professor of pediatric surgery. “Dr. Strobel and the remarkable impact he made on so many in this issue of The Bineway. Also in this issue are highlights of our McGovern Medical School’s 50th anniversary celebration. We have so many people and traditions to honor. Our Class of 2020 used technology, imagination, and flexibility for the traditions of Match Day and Commencement this year, as these annual celebrations moved to online formats. We are so proud of our accomplishments and resiliency—and look forward to their future in medicine, always a part of the McGovern family. We are preparing our students and trainees to care for their patients in a new world, where telehealth, personal protective equipment, and social distancing are more than just new vocabulary. Working with our hospital partners, public health colleagues, and our communities, we will continue this vital fight.

On a personal note, I am stepping down as dean this summer. I am proud to consider myself part of the McGovern Medical School alumni family. Serving as dean has been the absolute highlight of my career, and I am very grateful to President Giuseppe Colasurdo for having given me this opportunity.

Warm regards,

Barbara J. Stoll, MD
Dean, McGovern Medical School
H. Wayne Hinshaw Distinguished Professor in the Medical Sciences

DEAN STOLL

Hello,

“It is a good thing to lighten another’s path at this time and at all times of the year. Let us share the light and warmth and love we feel with others whether colleagues, patients, or the stranger in haste.”

This is a quote from Dr. Henry Strobel, beloved faculty member of McGovern Medical School who died at the age of 76, this past Nov. 23, 2019. Dr. Strobel’s words of wisdom hold special meaning during these complicated and stressful times for our world and medical school. We’ve written more about Dr. Strobel and the remarkable impact he made so many in this issue of The Bineway.

This issue is one of highlights of our McGovern Medical School’s 50th anniversary celebration. We have so many people and traditions to honor. Our Class of 2020 used technology, imagination, and flexibility for the traditions of Match Day and Commencement this year, as these annual celebrations moved to online formats. We are so proud of our accomplishments and resiliency—and look forward to their future in medicine, always a part of the McGovern family. We are preparing our students and trainees to care for their patients in a new world, where telehealth, personal protective equipment, and social distancing are more than just new vocabulary. Working with our hospital partners, public health colleagues, and our communities, we will continue this vital fight.

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*"His amazing contributions reach far and wide, impacting students, faculty, and staff. He was a great mentor and friend and will be missed by many."*
The past six months, the global COVID-19 pandemic has affected nearly every person in the world in some form or another. Whether navigating daily concerns of social distancing and personal hygiene or knowing friends or family members who have contracted the virus, the pandemic is a serious concern worldwide.

As with all physicians on the front lines of the pandemic, the physicians mentioned in this article who have contracted the virus, the pandemic is a serious concern worldwide.

"Personally, I was scared," said Dodge, an emergency medicine physician at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, California. "I knew I'd be seeing very sick patients who have contracted COVID-19. The disease has also brought on an influx of new procedures, including many of the lemonade of the disease. I was nervous about my health, the safety and quality assurance at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "Then, as data began to emerge suggesting COVID-19 could be spread by asymptomatic individuals, it was clear we would have an epidemic on our hands."

"As we all who have pets on the front lines of the pandemic, the battle against COVID-19 hits both at work and at home. Your pets that bond every day, pulling themselves face to face with the deadly disease, to help them infected and potentially stop the spread. However, with the courage to fight the virus comes the risk of exposure.

As with all physicians on the front lines of the pandemic, the battle against COVID-19 hits both at work and at home. Your pets that bond every day, pulling themselves face to face with the deadly disease, to help them infected and potentially stop the spread. However, with the courage to fight the virus comes the risk of exposure.

An increase in PPE when seeing patients face to face is in the only change for physicians treating patients with COVID-19. The disease has also brought on an influx of new procedures, including many of the lemonade of the disease. I was nervous about my health, the safety and quality assurance at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "Then, as data began to emerge suggesting COVID-19 could be spread by asymptomatic individuals, it was clear we would have an epidemic on our hands."

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McGovern Medical School began celebrating its yearlong 50th anniversary. Flags, banners, and signage showcasing the 50th anniversary were displayed around the school. Students, faculty, and staff attended the first 50th anniversary event—an Ice Cream Social and Decades Party—Sept. 17 in the Leather Lounge.

McGovern Medical School students take their first look at the grand opening of the Student Lounge in the LRC. The Student Lounge is known as “Losi’s Lounge,” named after John Cangelosi, MD ’05.

Medical students and their families attended a family-friendly holiday party featuring a surprise appearance from Santa at the home of Anthony Sutton, MD ’08.

Alumni and medical school student scholarship recipients gathered at the home of Clifford Moy, MD ’85, and Mrs. Diane Moy.

Students, faculty, and staff gathered for a dessert reception to celebrate McGovern Day. The day honors the generosity of the John P. McGovern Foundation and its transformational gift to UTHealth.

More than 50 McGovern Medical School and MD/PhD UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences alumni and their guests reunited for the inaugural MD/PhD Alumni Reception hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations at Brennan’s of Houston. Dianna M. Milewicz, MD, PhD, director of the MD/PhD program, and her team were integral in making this event come to fruition.

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While we weren’t able to gather together and celebrate Homecoming Weekend and McGovern Medical School’s 50th anniversary this year, we hosted an event virtually where fellow alumni shared messages and photos.

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McGovern Medical School class of 2020 celebrates first virtual match day

To show support for the Class of 2020 as they closed out their time at McGovern Medical School remotely, the Office of Alumni Relations invited alumni to share a note of encouragement, piece of advice, or a virtual pat on the back, or a warm welcome into our alumni family.

Claudia Martinez

At home with her parents by her side, Claudia Martinez, 29, quickly opened her email and found the proof she was looking for: confirmation that she could achieve her dreams, no matter what. She had matched to her top choice for physical medicine and rehabilitation residency training at TIRR Memorial Hermann—the very hospital where she had been a patient.

“I believe I am the first patient of TIRR to enter the UTHealth FMHH residency program!” Martinez shared. “I can’t wait to care for patients with the same physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, nurses, and others who took care of me.”

After being diagnosed in 2011 with Chiari malformation, a condition in which a portion of the brain protrudes from the bottom of the skull compressing the brainstem, she was even more determined to earn that medical degree and white coat.

“I was fortunate enough to have an amazing family who helped me every step of the way,” Martinez said. “I know that as a physician, I will lose your first name and affectionately be called “Doc.”

I graduated 30 years ago and can’t believe how far the field has gone. I wish you the best of 2020 and all the best in the decades ahead.

John White, MD ’80

You did it!

Although the celebration is tempered, your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. You have achieved greatness, and others who took care of me,” Martinez said.

You are entering a profession that becomes part of you. Most of you will lose your first name and affectionately be called “Doc.”

Enjoy and absorb your next years of residency. As some have already mentioned, you will make mistakes. We all do. Be humble and learn from them. Your future holds untold riches, both within and beyond the grave, but graduate medical education is a cost and not a partial act of the world.

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ALUMNAE SHARE EXPERIENCES AS WOMEN IN MEDICINE

Alumna Carin Hagberg, MD ’88, remembers when there were only a couple of socially acceptable careers for women in the workforce—and being a physician was not one of them. However, she did not let that stop her from becoming a successful medical professional. She now works at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Network®, and Gloria Oyeniyi, MD ’11, chief medical officer for Zelis Healthcare, also did not let that stop her from becoming a successful medical professional. Oyeniyi shared how she had to switch specialties before finding a field about which she was passionate. "I hope you wake up every day with the excitement that I love it that you’re here and interested,” Hagberg said to the women in attendance. "You all on your way to becoming women physicians, and we need more women physicians leading us. We (alumnae) are here to show you that there is a fulfilling life as a leader. It’s joyous, too.”

Patel keyed on the word “pivot.” As a critical care physician, she has learned every day is important. “You have far more freedom today—and likely will have even more tomorrow by the time you finish your training—than we anticipated,” she said. Other topics addressed by speakers included finding mentors, advocates, and sponsors; being assertive; navigating relationships; and freeing oneself from guilt.

"I think what you have to do is learn to assess yourself with ‘V’ Karri after the event. Karri is finishing a gap year so, to me, was one of my medical school highlights—never have felt so powerful and inspired to move forward in medicine and my community," said Podremiotis. "To have women that I look up to speak to us, to me, it’s joyous, too.""You have far more freedom today—and likely will have even more tomorrow by the time you finish your training—than we anticipated,” she said.

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"It sounds kind of cliché, but you get reminded that, at the end of the day, you have to find joy in your work. If at any point you don’t find it, you aren’t here.” Paul said Dickel said she has done a lot of pivoting through the years. For instance, she pivoted from medical practice into medical policy and politics and then back into academics. She encouraged listeners by assuring them that they have plenty of freedom to make any adjustments necessary. “You have far more freedom today—and likely will have even more tomorrow by the time you finish your training—than we anticipated,” she said.

The event was followed by a period of networking and conversations.

"If at any point you don’t find it, you can pivot,” Patel said. Panel keynoted on the word “pivot.” As a critical care physician, she has learned every days important. "I hope you wake up every day with the excitement that I still have right now as a psychiatrist," she said, “adding, “It’s not the end of the world if you (have to do is pivot and you can get the energy and the enthusiasm back.”

Jessica Vanderpool
Office of Development

Relatives and the Alumni Student Network. Earlier in the day, panelists were invited to a luncheon with Barbara J. Stoll, MD, dean and H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professor in the Medical Sciences. Later, during the evening event, alumnae were divided into three panels to speak on the topics of career paths, work-life balance, and academic and leadership positions.

"I love it that you’re here and interested,” Hagberg said to the women in attendance. "You all on your way to becoming women physicians, and we need more women physicians leading us. We (alumnae) are here to show you that there is a fulfilling life as a leader. It’s joyous, too.” Hagberg was part of the panel speaking on women in academic and leadership positions. Along with her were Nancy Dickel, MD ’76, president emeritus at Texas AM Health Science Center and executive director of AAMC Rural and Community Health Institute, and Bela Patel, MD ’88; vice dean of healthcare quality, division director of critical care medicine, and professor of medicine at McGovern Medical School. The topic of work-life balance was addressed by Priscilla Alfaro, MD ’89, chief medical officer for Zelis Healthcare, and Farah Shah, MD ’89, professor and chief of the Division of Internal Medicine at MD Anderson Cancer Network®, and Gloria Oyeniyi, MD ’11, assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine. Women throughout speakers’ comments was the theme of finding and following one’s passion—even if that means changing directions. Oyeniyi shared how she had to switch specialties before finding a field about which she was passionate.

"I hope you wake up every day with the excitement that I still have right now as a psychiatrist,” she said, adding, “It’s not the end of the world if you have to change specialties.” Paul keyed on the word “pivot.” As a critical care physician, she has learned every days important. “It sounds kind of cliché, but you get reminded that, at the end of the day, you have to find joy in your work.

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This program saved me during interview season!

Alumni welcomed medical students traveling for residency interviews

This was an excellent way to save a few dollars, make a few friends, and hear about a city and program from someone you can trust.

"This program saved me during interview season! My host was consistently gracious in providing lodging and advice. It made not feel much more comfortable staying in a new area because I felt like I had an ally. And, of course, it helped so much financially to not have to book a hotel!"

Youd Trish Kim
McGovern Medical School '20

"The HOST program is a fantastic way for our students to save money, see the importance of giving and gain some additional insights into the interview process.

"It was super helpful to have alumni provide a place to stay as well as get advice on life in the city, which helped to gain more insight into the local residency programs."

Mehroz Almas
McGovern Medical School '20

In my world, there are medical staff leaders who are figure heads, and then those are the people who strive for excellence and have a true passion for medical staff leadership.

Bonnie Conley

"I really enjoyed the lunch and Dr. Allen was an excellent alumna to meet with. Through her, I got to learn about a whole different side of medicine and see how her experiences have helped shape where she is now."

Gabriella Go
MD Candidate | McGovern Medical School '21

LEVI, MCDONALD ACCEPT

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARDS

Levy and McDonald have dedicated their careers to patient care and advocacy, and their contributions have been instrumental in shaping the future of medical education and practice.

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"This is not just a few lines on an impressive resume. In my world, there are medical staff leaders who are figure heads, and then there are those who strive for excellence and have a true passion for medical staff leadership."

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We are proud to share our inaugural slate of Dinners with a Doc. Students had the opportunity to connect with our alumni through the academic year.

Dinners with a Doc are casual gatherings that provide McGovern Medical School alumni and current students with opportunities to discuss careers in medicine and to develop mentoring relationships. Our medical students gain invaluable insight from seasoned alumni physicians, who, in turn, learn from students about the current state of their medical alma mater.

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The Help Our Students Travel (HOST) program connects current students traveling for residency interviews with alumni hosts in the vicinity of their interview site. Alumni hosts may offer housing, helping to ease the financial burden and stress of the interview process. Alumni who cannot offer housing may also be able to provide guidance on the local community, specialty, hospital, research, and more. The HOST program provides a wonderful opportunity to build connections between students and alumni that can last a lifetime.

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CONVERSATIONS
FROM THE LEATHER LOUNGE
An interview with
Marita Gabriel Nino, MD '85, MPH
MAGAZINE:
Modesto, CA 1991-2010
CURRENT JOB TITLE
Staff Anesthesiologist – Doctors Medical Center,
Los Angeles, CA 1986-1989
RESIDENCY
Anesthesiology, UCLA Medical Center,
Los Angeles, CA 1984-1986
RESEARCH
PhD in Economics, UT, 1994-1995
EXPERIENCE
Director of Medical Education, McGovern Medical School, 2000-2011
FUTURE
Professor Emeritus
RECOGNITION
Who is your mentor?
Dr. Stanley Deutsch and Richard Morris, distinguished anesthesiology faculty at McGovern Medical School, both taught me the value of being a mentor and how critical it is to have a mentor in your life. Dad is unusual; he studied engineering on a boxing scholarship and learned to be resourceful, which I believe are skills necessary for a successful medical career.
What is your most memorable achievement?
I believe it was being the first woman to graduate from the UT School of Medicine in 1985. I was a member of the class of 1985, which was a difficult time to be a woman in the medical field.
What has been your greatest adventure?
I would have to say the birth of my children. It was a challenge, but also a rewarding experience.
How do you spend your free time?
I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I also enjoy reading, gardening, and traveling.
What are your hopes for today's McGovern Medical School students?
I hope they can try to be involved in their communities in some manner.
What do you think is the one thing you can't live without? Why?
My iPhone 11 Pro Max has replaced a roomful of equipment: GPS, camera, camcorder, calculator, maps, maps, maps...
What fulfills you most?
Watching my children develop into responsible adults and recognizing my role in that process; an evening of dinner and laughter with friends and family; a smooth course process; an evening of dinner and laughter with friends and family; a smooth course process.
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