

David A. Rothenberger, M.D.
ASCRS Research Foundation Mentor Award
2002

Dave has been a driving force behind the University of Minnesota residency program for the past 25 years. During that time, he trained nearly 100 clinical and research residents whose widespread contributions to colon and rectal surgery attest to his commitment to academic and clinical excellence.

Dave has worked hard to advance our specialty and promote the careers of its future leaders. His tireless fundraising efforts for Minnesota Colon and Rectal Foundation and the ASCRS Research Foundation have helped secure independent funding for residency training and research.

He established an anorectal physiology laboratory, an endorectal ultrasound laboratory, and a prospective colorectal surgery data base within the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He also spearheaded the development of a multidisciplinary hereditary colorectal cancer registry.

Having laid this essential groundwork, he nurtured the careers of junior colleagues by entrusting the development of these programs to them. In addition, he actively promoted the academic careers of promising young colorectal surgeons nationwide.

Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Dave graduated from Princeton University ... earned his BS in Medicine at the University of South Dakota and his MD (Alpha Omega Alpha) from Tufts University in 1973. He completed his General Surgery Residency at St. Paul-Ramsey Hospital in 1978. After completion of his Colon and Rectal Surgery fellowship at the University of Minnesota in 1979, he joined the faculty of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery and was appointed Chief of the Division in 1992. He is currently a Professor of Surgery and holds the John P. Delaney, M.D., Ph.D. Chair in Clinical Surgical Oncology. He is also Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Rothenberger has also been the Associate Director for Clinical Research and Programs at the University of Minnesota Cancer Center since 1997.

Dave has traveled extensively as a lecturer and visiting professor. He is a member of more than 20 professional societies, including an honorary member of the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland and The Royal Society of Medicine Section of Coloproctology. He is the author or co-author of ninety original peer reviewed articles and numerous editorials, reviews, textbook chapters and teaching videos. He has served on many editorial boards including *Perspectives in Colon and Rectal Surgery*, *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, *Colorectal Disease*, *Surgery* and *Clinics in Colon and Rectal Surgery*.

Dave is past president of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, the ASCRS Research Foundation, and the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He is the founding President of the Minnesota Colon and Rectal Foundation, an organization devoted to research, training, and education in colorectal disease. He is active in numerous national organizations including the American Cancer Society and the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group.

The Young Researcher's Committee of the ASCRS Research Foundation is proud to present this Mentor Award to David A. Rothenberger, in recognition of the dedication, skill and passion he has brought to securing the specialty's future.

Written by: Robert Madoff, MD