Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison

On the Death of Dean Arnold Lanehart “Bud” Brown, Jr., MD

Arnold Lanehart “Bud” Brown, Jr., MD—who was the dean of the University of Wisconsin Medical School (now the UW School of Medicine and Public Health) from 1978 to 1991—died on October 20, 2015, at his home in Rochester, Minnesota. He was 89 years old.

Dr. Brown provided exceptional leadership during a period of shifting funding, dramatic evolution of the medical school curriculum and expansion of the basic sciences and clinical science facilities. He was an outstanding dean and a deeply revered person, who had many friends in every school and college at UW-Madison. He also established strong working relationships with UW-Madison Chancellor Irving Shain, PhD, and chairs of numerous medical school and campus departments, as he placed a high priority on building connections throughout the Madison community and beyond.

When Brown became dean, the Clinical Science Center, which houses UW Hospitals and Clinics, had just been completed on the west end of the Madison Campus. An initial priority of his tenure was to ensure the safe and effective transfer of patient care activities from the old University (“Wisconsin General”) Hospital at 1300 University Avenue to the new building that combined modern clinical facilities with superb research laboratories—typically in adjacent modules as at the National Institutes of Health.

Known for his kindness and wry sense of humor, Brown was born in Wooster, Ohio, grew up in Battle Creek, Michigan, and graduated from high school in Elkhart, Indiana. The arc of his career took him to some of the nation’s most prestigious medical institutions. He earned his medical degree at the Medical College of Virginia and completed an internship and residency at Rush Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago, following which he accepted a faculty position in pathology at Rush.

In 1959, he joined Mayo Clinic, where he became chair of the Department of Pathology and Anatomy and helped form the Mayo Medical School. There, he was active in cancer research and earned a national reputation, serving on and chairing councils and committees at the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute. Dr. Brown focused his career on experimental pathology and elucidation of disease pathogenesis, publishing 135 research articles. He then moved from Mayo to UW-Madison in 1978.

As dean, Dr. Brown appointed numerous productive faculty members and influential department chairs who greatly expanded the school’s grant funding, especially from the National Institutes of Health. In addition, he secured many key gifts from donors who supported the increased breadth and depth of the school’s mission.

Dr. Brown also brought to School of Medical School the patient and family service-oriented influence of an external force, Mayo Clinic—a major player in the U.S. medical environment, known globally for its high-quality clinical services.

Committed to a balanced institution addressing the proverbial “three-legged stool” of care, teaching and research excellence, “Bud” worked hard to elevate the status of school’s faculty and students throughout the Campus during a challenging era. Thus, he shepherded the school

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through an era of significant growth. Dean Brown was known to be an excellent mentor for department chairs and to exhibit a high level of sensitivity for both clinical and basic science departments. Whenever possible, he encouraged recruitment of physician-scientists who could practice medicine and conduct research. By doing so, Dr. Brown helped elevate the academic enterprise from focusing primarily on teaching medical students and residents in graduate medical education to contributing robustly to the intellectual knowledge of the university and nation through innovative research.

Brown was predeceased by his wife, Betty Jane (Simpson) Brown, in 2013. He is survived by his five children: Arnold III, or Terry, Brown (Cheryl Crosby) of Edina, Minnesota; Anthony Brown (Josephine Marcotty) of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Allen Brown (Suzi) of Rochester, Minnesota; Fletcher Brown (Wendy) of Missoula, Montana; and Lisa Carey (Brett) of Northfield, Minnesota, and 13 grandchildren.

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