

The Robert H. Moser *Pharos* Editor's Prize

Robert H. Moser, MD, MACP, served for many years as an enthusiastic and skilled member of the editorial board of *The Pharos*. He was the book review editor of the journal from 2001 to 2004, and continued to contribute to *The Pharos* until his death last August.

Alpha Omega Alpha wishes to honor Dr. Moser by establishing an annual award in his name to recognize excellence in writing in *The Pharos*. We invite your help. We propose an annual award of up to \$6000, to which Alpha Omega Alpha would contribute \$2500 annually. To reach our goal of a prestigious and significant award, worthy to bear Dr. Moser's name,

we have set a fundraising goal of \$100,000 to fund the award annually. Dr. Moser's wife Linda has pledged \$10,000 toward this amount. If you would like to contribute to funding this award to honor one of the giants of American medicine of the last century, please send your contribution, noting that it is for the Moser Award to:

Debbie Lancaster
Managing Editor
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Dr. Moser's illustrious career included an enormous variety of fascinating endeavors:

- He organized and served as a surgeon in one of the first MASH units during the Korean War.
- He was a pioneering flight controller who monitored the physiological and psychological performance of astronauts for the Project Mercury through Project Apollo space programs.
- He served as Chief of Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC; William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso; and Tripler Army

Medical Center in Honolulu. During this period, he was instrumental in setting up programs that guided the education of generations of internal medicine house officers by integrating university-level training standards in Army teaching hospitals. He remained passionate about medical education throughout his life.

- During his years of private practice in internal medicine in Maui, he served as one of the doctors treating patients at the Kalaupapa leper colony on Molokai.
- Dr. Moser was the author of several medical reference books, some still in use today, and was one of the first physician/writers to deal with the problem of drug-induced disease.
- As editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* from 1973 to 1975, Dr. Moser instituted sweeping changes in the journal that are still evident today.
- Dr. Moser served as Executive Vice President of the American College of Physicians in Philadelphia from 1977 to 1986. While there, he was invited to the People's Republic of China to observe medical practice there in one of the earliest signs of detente. More importantly, he met his wife Linda while working at the ACP.

- In the 1980s, he served as Director of Medical Affairs for Monsanto's NutraSweet division.
- After so-called retirement, he and his wife formed a medical consulting company to establish networks of medical experts in various specialties for large corporations.
- Not least, Dr. Moser was a frequent contributor to *The Pharos* and a member of its editorial board, on which he served until his death.

Dr. Moser published his autobiography, *Past Imperfect: A Personal History of an Adventurous Lifetime In and Around Medicine*, in 2002. A video of reminiscences by Dr. Moser is available here: <https://vimeo.com/22113933>.