

# 50th Reunion

UCSF SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
CLASS OF 1963



UCSF ALUMNI WEEKEND  
The Palace Hotel | San Francisco

*April 25-27, 2013*

University of California  
San Francisco



School of Medicine

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## Preface

Robert S. Sherins, MD, Editor



**W**E are a remarkable class of the UCSF School of Medicine, who fulfilled all of the responsibilities placed upon us as recipients of the medical degrees conferred by Dean John B. de C.M. Saunders in San Francisco, California, on June 3, 1963. How noteworthy it was to be reminded that we were the **100<sup>th</sup> graduating class**<sup>1</sup> of this outstanding state-supported university. UCSF was founded in 1873 having taken over the Toland Medical College, which had been established earlier in downtown San Francisco in 1864.

Settling in San Francisco on September 10, 1959, I was informed that I was entering only the second freshman class fortunate enough to be spending its entire training in the city of San Francisco, rather than having the basic sciences years conducted on the U.C. Berkeley campus. Our introduction to medical school was first spent in the study of gross anatomy in the laboratory located on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of the Health Sciences building on Parnassus Avenue. Please note that the signs in the elevators had been conveniently changed to the 14<sup>th</sup> floor. Life-long alliances developed among us as a consequence of the intensity of the course study, clustered and laboring together over our cadavers in teams of four students. It was a very maturing experience. Who could ever forget those incredible hours of learning spent in preparation for our later clinical years? It is now, 50-years later, as we look back with affection and praise for our former teachers and the outstanding facilities at UCSF that we can realize the real significance of those unique times.

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<sup>1</sup> Because of the extra classes mandated by the needs for additional doctors in World War II, the Class of 1963 was the 100<sup>th</sup> class to graduate from UCSF.

We had 10 wonderful lady classmates, which at the time were considered rather special. Today, the classes consist of at least 50% female students. Student selection is represented by all ethnicities. Our own classmates have expressed their medical interests and skills by choosing careers in diverse specialties: medicine 38; surgery 30; pathology 7; anesthesia 7; and psychiatry 7; radiology 6; and pediatrics 5. A dozen of our group sought academic careers.

During the course of the past years, we have cherished our healthiness, noting that 83% of our original classmates are thriving. We are about to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year after graduation, which is by itself a remarkable feat. Let us lift our glasses to honor each other at our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Weekend, April 25 -27, 2013, at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco. Let us commemorate the event in which 67% of us have chosen to attend the reunion and to rekindle our relationships. Let us cherish our friendships and create an enduring happiness with lots of laughter that will continue to promote good health. I note with enormous pleasure that our gathering will be remembered as the best-attended reunion in the history of UCSF. Thank you for joining our grand celebration.

I wish to express my grateful thanks to Mr. Gary Bernard<sup>2</sup> and Mr. Michael Eccles,<sup>3</sup> as well as to Dean Sam Hawgood, MBBS<sup>4</sup> for their exceptional support and encouragement in the planning and execution of our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion gala. It is especially to the members of our Reunion Committee<sup>5</sup> whom I wish to acknowledge for their enthusiastic support in sharing the responsibilities for our gathering and for their sage counsel. But, most of all I so appreciate their friendship.

Publication of the Illustrated History of our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion would not have been possible without the prior efforts of Barbara Breger, who steadfastly kept in touch with us over the years. She organized weekly luncheons for the ladies of our class during the school years, as well as the setting up our previous reunions after graduation. Over the years, Barbara maintained correspondence with us. Bob Rood was the principal photographer, whose pictures taken throughout our four years at UCSF provide the retrospective observation of our school experiences. The negatives of his assiduous efforts were lost until Michael Eccles accidentally discovered an unmarked box in a back room at the university development office in September 2012. Barbara Breger and Bob Rood created and published

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<sup>2</sup> Director, UCSF Alumni Relations/School Programs.

<sup>3</sup> Director UCSF Alumni Relations.

<sup>4</sup> Dean, UCSF School of Medicine.

<sup>5</sup> Irene Adams, MD; Ron Bachman, MD; Donna Betz, MD; Adam Blatner, MD; Barbara Breger, MD; Kate Kirkman, MD; Jim Miller, MD, Gordon Mo, Pat Ryan, MD; MD; Pat Tsang, MD; and Weyman Wong, MD.

our Graduation Yearbook album in 1963, from which many additional photos were obtained. Unfortunately, the negatives for that series of photos remains lost, so the best of the pictures had to be scanned from the book.

We have lost 17 classmates due to their pre-mature deaths. An additional section of the manuscript was added *In Memoriam*. It is sobering to realize the good fortune we have had in thriving and being able to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion together. Let us remember them well and keep their memory near.

The publication of this ***UCSF School of Medicine, Class of 1963, An Illustrated History, 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Memory Book***, represents a visual retrospective of the history of both the school and its students. The manuscript has been archived and catalogued at the Kalmanovitz Library of the UCSF School of Medicine. It will be available to the public, as well as to the future officials of the State of California as a record of the accomplishments from their continued investments in public education in this fabulous State of California.

# Chapter One

# Dedication to an Exceptional Classmate In Memoriam

EULOGY OF BOB ROOD

By

Daniel Gormley, M.D.



I met Bob Rood in the registration line at St. Mary's College. Upon learning that we were both premed students, we agreed to be roommates. We roomed together again during our UCSF years.

Both of Bob's parents were physicians who moved to Northridge, California, late in Bob's childhood. He had a Brooklyn accent, which made him an object of derision among some of his schoolmates. He shed the accent, but as a result of this experience sympathized with those with speech or linguistic limitations that prevented them from communicating effectively.

His father Morris Rood MD died of a cerebrovascular accident during our freshman year. That year, as we all remember, was difficult enough. He soldiered on stoically in spite of his grief. It was many months before he regained his outspoken and uninhibited sense of humor that we all remember.

An avid photographer, he began taking candid pictures of all of us saying that he was making a photographic record of "the most interesting bunch of friends that anyone ever had." This led to the idea that our class could produce a yearbook. Although many in the class worked very hard and contributed creatively to that effort, I do not believe the yearbook would have become a reality without his drive and leadership. As a result, we have a pictorial record of

our four years at UCSF and SFGH, which is increasing in historic and personal value.

During our clinical years, Bob took an intense professional and personal interest in his patients. He often went to considerable lengths to follow them and learn what happened to them as they moved through the sometimes labyrinthine system of clinics and wards of the UCSF system.

Bob was interested in endocrinology and adolescent medicine. After taking a three-year medical residency at SFGH, he took a fellowship in ephibiatics at Boston Children's Hospital. This was followed by an additional year of training with the Joslin Diabetes Foundation at the New England Deaconess Hospital. He returned to California and practiced internal medicine in Northridge, and Tarzana, California, until the time of his sudden death in 2004.

He and his wife, Maurie, had one daughter, Lisa, who graduated first in her class from medical school at UCLA. She now practices pediatrics in Brentwood in Contra Costa County. He had two children by his second wife, Laurel. His daughter, Kelly, is an interior designer. His son, Jonathan, is a property manager living in New York City. At the time of his death, he was married to Miriam Cotler Rood. Bob's sister, Madeline Taft, lives in Encino, California. His grandchildren now number six. He was especially proud of his mother Lillian Seitsive MD, who maintained a family practice in Northridge until she retired at the age of 94.

Besides his family, Bob was deeply interested in fishing and the ocean. He spent many days and nights aboard his converted and comfortably appointed trawler. She was as Bob said, "Big enough to take him anywhere he wanted to go."

We can thank Madeline Taft and Maurie Davidson for providing and corroborating many of the details of Bob's Life.

## ***In Memoriam***

Timothy R. Altenhofen, MD	Neurosurgery, March 14, 2004
Lawrence M. Barsocchini, MD	Head & Neck Surgery, 1981
Saul Bernstein, MD	Orthopedic Surgery, April 2010
Carolyn Linn Blight, MD	Internal Medicine, March 12, 2010
Peter W. Brill, MD	Family Medicine, April 10, 2008
Dennis R Busby, MD	Head-Neck Surgery. June 22, 1996
Venancio A. Garcia, MD	December 1964
Henry I. Goldberg, MD	GI Radiology, September 20, 2005
Edward I. Greenbaum, MD	Radiology, September 9, 1984
Frederick g. Hartley, MD	Internal Medicine, April 29, 1988
John P. Jones, MD	Orthopedic Surgery, Oct 13, 2001
James S. Lieberman, MD	Rehab. Med, August 21, 2006
Gary K. McClelland, MD	Ob/Gyn, November 2, 1990
George e. Mohun, MD	Family Medicine, June 9, 2003
Pierre Mornell, MD	Psychiatry, September 12, 2011
Robert P. Rood, MD	Adolescent Endocrinology, April 29, 2004
Robert P. Uller, MD	Endocrinology, September 3, 1999

## Committee For The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion



Irene Adams, MD



Ron Bachman, MD



Donna Betz, MD



Adam Blatner, MD



Barbara C. Breger, MD



Kate Kirkman, MD



James Miller, MD



Gordon Mo, MD



Pat Ryan, MD



Robert S. Sherins, MD



Pat Tsang, MD



Weyman W. Wong, MD

# Class Essay

By Weyman W. Wong, M.D.



To My Dear Classmates,

Yesterday Bob Sherins called me excitedly to inform me that the university had heeded his plea. Three years ago, when Bob set out to help orchestrate our jubilee reunion into a memorable event for us all, he had proposed the university, instead of following customary practice, defer naming a single alumnus as the "Alumnus of the Year." Rather, he proposed the university recognize each of us for our individual accomplishments and successes carried out after our medical education had been completed at UCSF. Thus, when we reconvene in April, each of us will be awarded a special medal struck specifically to commemorate our accomplishments on our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary after graduation. The medals will be tethered to a ribbon lanyard signifying each of us to be a member of that distinguished Class of 1963, each of us an equally worthy graduate of UCSF.

Allow me to recount a vignette I had previously shared in our monthly newsletter. It was one afternoon after our last lecture, and a small group of us were lounging around chatting. Classmate Bob Rood then expounded a story that has reverberated in me ever since. He proclaimed we were all on the cusp of making some lifelong decisions. Some of us will choose to be a big fish swimming in a large pond. Others a big fish in a small pond. Still others a small fish in a large pond. And, lastly, some will choose to be a small fish in a small pond. Perhaps it was because my name placed me at the end of the alphabet and the back of the room. Perhaps it was learning how to scrunch down low in my seat to avoid having Professor Jawetz direct a question at me during one of his scathing lectures. Nevertheless, I have chosen to be as small and as invisible

a fish possible in my small pond simply to survive. So is it fair that I ride on the coattails of my renowned classmates and receive the lanyard with a medal equal to theirs?

While mulling over the disparate paths we have all taken these past 50 years, Bob reminded me, no matter which paths we had taken, no matter how many laurels we had been accorded, and no matter how exalted our titles earned, we have all achieved stellar success in some manner or fashion. Hmmm. Then I recalled a couple of patients of mine who were joined by one commonality: I was the 4th doc in both instances, though the one with the least formal training, to diagnose accurately and to treat them after they'd been seen and dismissed by the others. The first had AIDS and would be the first to be so diagnosed and treated at Kaiser Hayward and Fremont in 1981. The second had Lyme Disease, again the first to be diagnosed and treated with such at my hospital in 1985, years before Time Magazine would publicize this on their front cover over a decade later. Moi! A member of the Class of '63! How cool was that! I am sure you all have similar stories, stories about how our UCSF education has afforded us an advantage that our contemporaries from other schools may not have had. During the years when my administrative hat placed me in the task of interviewing and recruiting new docs, I had encountered a number of docs with exemplary pedigrees only to discover that they would falter in the day-to-day practice of emergency medicine. They reminded me of the "Saigon warriors," a term those of us bivouacked out in the boonies of Vietnam disparagingly used to name those who strutted around with clean fatigues and polished boots in Saigon, while we, who were in harm's way, were a grubby bunch wearing dusty fatigues and soiled boots. We were not poster kids like the Saigon warriors, but we were trustworthy and able to carry out our missions faithfully with aplomb.

Thus, I will accept Bob's largesse and will accept my UCSF lanyard with medal without embarrassment. Thank you, Bob, for reminding me that everyone in our class is worthy of recognition, no matter what size fish we had sought to be, no matter what size fish we are seen to be.

Lastly, I know Bob has spent hundreds of hours working out details to avail us one splendid jubilee reunion this April. Even if he had charged us a fraction of what lawyers and plumbers bill for their man-hours, we could not repay him without going into bankruptcy. Furthermore, shame fall on me were I to neglect acknowledging the generous time and support his wife Marlene has given him these past years. She proves the adage that "behind every great man stands a greater woman." When we convene in April, I hope everyone thanks both Bob and Marlene for their prodigious efforts on our behalf. Likewise, Pat Tsang and Gordon Mo have spent hours searching for an appropriate setting for our two special dinners and deciding the feasts. Once again, as a member of the reunion committee, I find myself riding on the coattails of my classmates' labors.

Once again, I will accept the gratitude of fellow classmates as they thank the members of this committee. But by now you know I have gotten used to accepting accolades just because I am a member of the Class of '63.

Thank you, classmates. I look forward to seeing you all soon. ;-)

Faithfully chronicled,

Weyman W. Wong, MD

## Letters to the Class of 1963

# UCSF School of Medicine

Sam Hawgood, MD  
Dean UCSF School of Medicine



Dean Sam Hawgood, MBBS,<sup>6</sup>

Dear Class of 1963,

**W**e are delighted that over 100 classmates and guests will be participating in your 50<sup>th</sup> UCSF School of Medicine reunion. Congratulations to your class leaders for achieving this record-breaking attendance!

I am particularly grateful to Robert Sherins for the work he has done to bring your class together this year. His phone calls to every classmate and the monthly newsletters, written with your participation over the past three years, are an outstanding example of alumni class communication.

In October, I had the great pleasure of visiting with Robert and several members of your class when they previewed our new Anatomy Learning Center. I learned from them that you were only the second class to study anatomy on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of the Medical Sciences building and spend your entire four years of medical school in San Francisco. During our lunch meeting, Robert shared with

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<sup>6</sup> [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com): **Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery**, or in Latin: **Medicinae Baccalaureus, Baccalaureus Chirurgiae** (abbreviated in various ways, viz. MBBS or MBChB, MB BS, MB BChir, BM BCh, MB BCh, MB ChB, BM BS, BM, BMed etc.), are the two first professional degrees awarded upon graduation from medical school in medicine and surgery by universities in various countries that follow the tradition of the United Kingdom. The naming suggests that they are two separate degrees; however, in practice, they are usually treated as one and awarded together. Professionals holding MBBS degrees are referred to by the courtesy title of "Doctor" and use the prefix "Dr".

me your hopes and expectations for UCSF Alumni Weekend 2013. My colleagues and I are looking forward to welcoming you back to UCSF and celebrating the contributions each of you have made to the field of medicine in the decades since you graduated.

Looking at the preview of your memory book, I was impressed by the range of accomplishments through which your class has advanced medicine in your communities, nationally, and around the world through clinical care, research and education. Naming just a few among the outstanding leaders in your group, we could list Robert Cantu, the world expert in post-concussion sequellae; Joseph LaDou, world expert in occupational medicine; John Kusske, Chief of Neurosurgery at UC Irvine; Irene Adams-Bruinsma, an immunologist in Brazil who created a free clinic in prevention and treatment of HIV infection in children; John Prince, a Director of the American Urological Association; Steven Lee, Director of Hematopathology at the UCLA Medical Center; and, Richard Sherins, a world expert in andrology and male infertility.

What we see in your class is not just great leadership, but a remarkable diversity of talent and interests. Fifty years ago, the predominant style of education was to emphasize the tradition of competition. Since that time much has been done to create an environment of concordance and respect, which has led to innovation and discovery. It is gratifying to know that in 1959, the UCSF School of Medicine was preparing physicians not just to become leaders but also to give them opportunities to explore their own interests, rather than directing them to a few predetermined specialties. I believe California taxpayers received an excellent return on their investment in your medical education and in the future of medicine.

Chancellor Susan Desmond-Hellman and I believe that our alumni are the foundation of UCSF. You are our best ambassadors, showing the world by your example that UCSF trains extraordinary physician-leaders.

It gives me great pleasure to be a part of your celebration and to acknowledge your achievements. On behalf of UCSF, congratulations and thank you for all that you have done for medicine and your medical school.

Best wishes,  
Sam Hawgood, MBBS  
Dean, UCSF School of Medicine

## UCSF Alumni Relations

Michael Eccles, Director



Michael Eccles

Dear Class of 1963:

I am so pleased that so many of you return to UCSF for your 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Thank you to Bob Sherins and the class of 1963 reunion committee for all of their hard work in preparation for Alumni Weekend 2013.

Each year I have the unique pleasure of acting as ambassador and guide to the returning classes for the School of Medicine. It is such a joy to show off the amazing UCSF campuses to returning alumni and to introduce them to all the new buildings, students, faculty, science and technology that is part of today's UCSF. I also really love hearing the stories our alumni tell about their own days at UCSF.

In 2012 we held our first all-school alumni weekend in many years. We were hoping that we would welcome back at least 1000 alumni from all the schools combined. To our surprise, 1,800 came back to celebrate Alumni Weekend - 2012. Everywhere you looked, alumni were running into each other's arms as shouts of delight filled the air.

As we approached our first all school alumni weekend, several alumni asked me why we were changing our format to include all of the schools celebrating on the same weekend. The answers were easy ones. You might think that the economies of scale would be the driving factor, but actually the most important reason came from our chancellor, Susan Desmond-Hellmann. She feels that if we are to move forward as one of the world's preeminent healthcare universities, we will need to do so as one university and not as individual schools. With this idea in mind the "One UCSF" motto was born.

The idea of “One UCSF” also reflects what UCSF is today. Students are learning together, side by side, to understand how the nurse, pharmacist and dentist and doctor each play a crucial role in the care of their patient. Groups of students, with representatives from each school, have begun to work on very challenging mock cases, which require a team approach. These interactions are filmed and shown to the students for their evaluation. This process becomes an amazing learning tool for them.

I am looking forward to introducing you to some of these amazing students as well as to welcome you back. We have many wonderful events planned for your return to UCSF and San Francisco. We are also lucky enough to have once again booked the fabulous Palace Hotel as our home base for the weekend. Shuttles will run from the hotel to the Parnassus and Mission Bay campuses for most of the weekend’s events and the tours we have planned. I know Bob Sherins and the reunion committee have also created some special opportunities for the class of 1962 to reconnect.

Your 50<sup>th</sup> reunion is an amazing opportunity to come back to UCSF to reunite with your classmates. Yours will be the sixth 50<sup>th</sup> reunion I have had the pleasure of helping plan. So in my vast six year bank of knowledge, here is what I have learned from those who have made this journey before you: Laugh a lot, hug as long as you can, take your time, tell all the great old stories even if you have all heard them before, talk as if no time has passed since you last saw each other, take lots and lots of mental pictures, stay up too late and once again, laugh.

I know you will all have a great time, and I am very excited to welcome you to your 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion.

Congratulations to each you, and happy 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

Best wishes,

Mike Eccles  
Director of Alumni Relations – School of Medicine

## UCSF Director of Alumni Development for School Programs



Gary Bernard

Dear Class of 1963,

**M**ichael Eccles, Director of Alumni Relations for the School of Medicine and I are working with Bob Sherins to help ensure that you enjoy the most memorable UCSF School of Medicine 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion celebration in April 2013. This event will make it possible for your class to come together, rekindle friendships and share the memory of experiences that are important to you. It also gives the UCSF leadership the opportunity to acknowledge and thank you for the differences you have made in medicine and in the evolution of UCSF.

Mike and I have been involved in UCSF School of Medicine Reunions for over seven years. In that time we have met extraordinary physicians, researchers, teachers and community leaders and have heard remarkable stories of courage, miracles, and discoveries. We have learned much about the history of medicine and UCSF through your alumni stories.

We are honored that Bob has included us in the circulation of your class newsletter. It is a pleasure reading about your travels and life experiences. We hope you also enjoy reading what your classmates have been doing since you stood next to them in your anatomy class. You probably recognize their photograph in the newsletter even though they've matured since you saw them last, but so much more has changed. During the **All Alumni Weekend** you will see old friends, now accomplished leaders in medicine, and get to know them all over again.

We are looking forward to meeting you personally at the upcoming reunion events and sharing how important you are to UCSF and how much your Medical School appreciates the many ways you have contributed to the advancement of medicine and medical education.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

Warm regards,

Gary

The following article was excerpted from the  
UCSF Magazine, Spring 2013

By Claire Conway<sup>7</sup>



**H**arold Harper, MD, then dean of the UCSF Graduate Division, wrote a letter for the class of 1963's senior yearbook that was as resonant then as it is today. As a physician, he wrote, "...you are there for the treatment of other human beings and you must never forget your humanitarian traditions and requirements."

Robert Sherins, MD '63, and Barbara Breger, MD '63, took these words to heart not just as practicing ophthalmologists (both of them), but also as people inspired to create connections with their classmates. Dr. Breger built relationships early and often while still in medical school. There were only 11 women in the class and Breger made sure they met weekly for lunch. "There were few women in medical school at that time and we were underappreciated," recalls Barbara Breger. "The lunches made us realize that, though we all had our own stories, we all were very interested in medicine and needed to support each other to continue on." After co-editing the senior yearbook, Dr. Breger doggedly followed all her classmates over the decades, the hard way – through typewritten newsletters dating back to 1964 – asking for their whereabouts and whatabouts.

Dr. Sherins followed in Dr. Breger's footsteps and organized several mini-reunions in Northern and Southern California. With his Internet and desktop publishing skills, he created an online newsletter in 2009. It is rich with the pictures

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<sup>7</sup> Sr. Publications and Marketing Specialist, University Development and Alumni Relations, University of California, San Francisco, 220 Montgomery St., 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104.

and anecdotes that have animated and defined the lives of his fellow medical students through the years.

The secret to the online newsletter's success, according to Robert Sherins, is his time spent cajoling colleagues on the phone. "In the course of calling all of my classmates, I have often heard them say, 'I don't do important things like you do.'" His reply is reminiscent of the words of Dean Harper, "But who is more important in the grand scheme of things – the Nobel Laureate, the academic scholar who invented lasers, or the general practitioner in a rural community who holds the hand of his or her dying patients?"

Dr. Sherins asks his colleagues to read the 48 issues and decide for themselves. "I've gotten people to come out of oblivion and write a story so that they don't feel like a small fish in a small pond," he says. If they can't figure out how to scan, Sherins has them send the picture in its frame and returns it the next day. If they can no longer write, Sherins takes dictation.

Come April, the decade's long, tag-team efforts of Breger and Sherins will culminate in a 50th reunion celebration for their class at UCSF Alumni Weekend. As this magazine goes to press, the two have motivated over 84 percent of the living members to attend – a record for the institution. The Class of '63 is so connected that they have five events of their own planned. Following their reunion, each classmate will receive a 300-page electronic copy of their memory book that Dr. Sherins has compiled with Dr. Breger's input, a tribute to their humanity – personal and professional – honed over the past 50 years.

