
In Memoriam:

Hubert L. Rosomoff, MD, D Med Sc, FACS

April 11, 1927–June 5, 2008

HUBERT L. ROSOMOFF (HU) was my friend, colleague, and teacher. To all, he was Hu. His personal qualities of warmth, humanity, empathy, and generosity to his friends and family were reflected in all his academic accomplishments. The dedication of his research was at all times to individuals learning together for the benefit of the patient—a team approach.

We were first introduced in 1967 by Erwin Rock, MD, acting director of the Department of Otolaryngology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECM). Hu had been appointed in 1966 as professor and chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the AECM. Our goal was the development of programs of otology and neurotology for otological complaints of hearing loss, tinnitus, and balance, focusing on the diagnostic entity of the acoustic tumor.

Our professional contact at the AECM extended from 1967 to 1971. In a relatively short period, a collaboration that started as colleagues sharing information led to the development of an operating room team effort toward the transtemporal approach for removal of an acoustic tumor (which was completed in more than 30 cases). Our conversations were wide ranging and included basic science discussions of brain physiology, relationships to Ménière's disease, maintenance of equilibrium, nerve-related hearing loss, Hu's multidisciplinary approach for the treatment of chronic pain, concepts of lowering body temperature in managing head injuries, and the application of the laser and cryoprobe for surgical brain tumor removal. All contributed to a truly enlightening experience for a young otolaryngologist with an interest in otology and neurotology. Our initial professional collaboration developed into a friendship that grew over the years. As a friend, I shared his enthusiasm for his appointment in 1971 as professor and first chairman of a newly designated autonomous Department of Neurological Surgery at the Uni-



versity of Miami School of Medicine (UM) but, as I said to Hu, "It is their gain and our loss."

From 1971 to 1994 at UM, Hu's academic and clinical highlights included the establishment of a team and resources that became the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis (now known as the Institute of Neuroscience at UM) and formation of the first Comprehensive Pain and Rehabilitation Center. The first program director was his wife, Renee Rosomoff, RN. The program was recognized

in 1994 as a Center of Excellence by the UM, where Hu was employed full-time after stepping aside to become chairman emeritus of the Department of Neurological Surgery. The Center was renamed the Rosomoff Comprehensive Pain Center in 2003 and moved to the Miami Jewish Home and Hospital in 2004.

Hubert L. Rosomoff was the author of more than 350 books and articles and editor of several journals. He received numerous awards.

I consider the contributions of Hubert Rosomoff, a pioneer in pain treatment, to be significant for professionals in the new discipline of tinnitology for the basic science and theory of tinnitus, clinically for its diagnosis and treatment, and for tinnitus patients (i.e., a multidisciplinary approach for tinnitus). Some of Hu's theories of pain may provide future translation and support for the concept of some clinical types of tinnitus as pain of the auditory system.

Hubert L. Rosomoff exemplified the finest qualities one seeks in a physician. Well done, and rest easy, Hu. We will miss you and never forget the high standards you set for yourself and all who were fortunate to have known you. To your wife, Renee, daughter Cathy, sons Peter and Richard, grandchildren, and family, our best wishes for the future.

Abraham Shulman, MD, FACS