

## Class Notes

60s ]

**Robert N. Hensinger** (M.D. 1964, Residency 1974) received the Life-



time Achievement Award from the Michigan Orthopaedic Society at its annual meeting on Mackinaw Island, Michigan, in June. Hensinger,

the William S. Smith Collegiate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery in the U-M Medical School, focuses his research on spinal and lower extremity problems in children, as well as scoliosis and hip disease.

70s ]

**Susan Adela Fuhrman** (M.D. 1978) has been named to the board of



trustees of the American Board of Pathology. In this role, she is responsible for developing and reviewing certification exam questions and materials, and administering the exams in anatomic pathology and clinical pathology, as well as in many subspecialties. She also chairs a new Test Development Committee in Laboratory Management and Informatics. Fuhrman is known for developing the most widely used and most predictive grading system for renal cell cancer — the Fuhrman Nuclear Grade. She is a pathologist with Ohio-

Health in Columbus, chair of pathology at Riverside Methodist Hospital and director of pathology and laboratory services at Grant Riverside Laboratories.



**John L. Pfenninger** (M.D. 1974) recently published the third edition of *Pfenninger and Fowler's Procedures for Primary Care* (Elsevier,

2011), a standard textbook for teaching programs in primary care residencies, which also is widely used by nurse practitioners, physical assistants, armed forces programs and clinicians. Pfenninger completed his family medicine residency at the University of Utah in 1977 and is now in private practice in Midland, Michigan.

80s ]

**Gilbert J. Grant** (M.D. 1982) has published *Epidural Without Guilt:*



*Childbirth Without Pain* (Russell Hastings Press, 2011). The book discusses pain management options for expectant mothers and the

risks of experiencing unrelieved pain during childbirth. Grant is director of obstetric anesthesia at New York University Langone Medical Center and associate professor and vice chair for academic affairs in the Department of Anesthesiology at the NYU School of Medicine.

**John H. Lemmer Jr.**, M.D. (Residencies 1985 and 1987), has co-authored the 7th edition of the textbook *Handbook of Patient Care in Cardiac Surgery* (Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2010).

Based in Portland, Oregon, Lemmer has been with Northwest Surgical, working predominately at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital, since 1991, and joined the Oregon Clinic in 2003. In addition, he is a clinical assistant professor of surgery at Oregon Health and Science University.

90s ]

**Robert D. Brook** (M.D. 1995) spoke in May on Capitol Hill during the



40th anniversary celebration of the Clean Air Act, hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Brook is an associate professor of

internal medicine in the U-M Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. An expert in environmental cardiology, his research has added to the growing evidence that pollution from industry, traffic and power generation causes damaging strokes and heart attacks.

**Cynthia N. Steimle** (M.D. 1986, Residencies 1992 and 1995) is medical staff president at Provena Saint Joseph Hospital in Elgin, Illinois. A cardiothoracic surgeon, she previously served as chief of surgery at Elgin's Sherman Hospital. —MF

*Class Notes may be submitted online at [www.medicineatmichigan.org/classnotes](http://www.medicineatmichigan.org/classnotes), mailed to 1000 Oakbrook Dr., Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104, or e-mailed to [frostm@umich.edu](mailto:frostm@umich.edu).*

## Alumni Profile ] Harold Conn's Two Careers

### YOUNGER BROTHER OF REVERED U-M

endocrinologist Jerome Conn (M.D. 1932), Harold Conn came to Michigan with designs on becoming not just a physician, but also a swimming star with U-M's national championship team. He learned, however, that he was the 25th fastest freestyler on the team. "I became a waiter instead," he says.

The physician thing worked out much better. Conn earned his Bachelor of Science in 1946 and his M.D. in 1950. He left Michigan for an internship at Johns Hopkins, counter to his brother's warning that the big eastern hospitals hadn't taken a Michigan medical graduate in years. "I told him it was probably time for me to go where I wasn't Jerry Conn's younger brother," says Conn. "We divided up the world: He got Ann Arbor; I got the rest!"

Conn did well on his own. His residency and fellowship at Yale — interrupted by service in the U.S. Army and Air Force — led to his first career: hepatologist. His spectacular diagnosis of a complex liver case led to a 30-year association with Gerald Klatskin, M.D., one of the first hepatologists in the world. A Veterans Administra-

tion Clinical Investigatorship led to Conn's appointment, in 1957, as chief of hepatology at the VA in West Haven, Connecticut.

Conn's career included serving as president of the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease and being awarded the first Fiterman Award for Hepatic Research by the American Gastroenterological Association. Perhaps his greatest achievement, however, was collaborating with Klatskin on a histologic atlas of liver disease, which Klatskin had begun but went blind and later died prior to its completion. "It took me five years to finish it, a long labor," says Conn, "but a beautiful, healthy, seven-pound, two-volume book, *The Histopathology of the Liver*, was delivered in 1993."

Conn retired in 1992, and it was then he began to notice a "trivial clumsiness" to his gait which worsened over the next two years. A neurologist diagnosed Parkinsonism, but as the years wore on, Conn could no longer walk. As his symptoms grew in number, his physician referred him to a young neurologist for a second opinion. Conn was diagnosed — correctly this time — with normal pressure hydrocephalus, or NPH, "a disease of which I'd never heard," he says. A neurosurgeon drained 60 milliliters of cerebral spinal fluid, and his symptoms vanished. The remission was made long-standing by implanting a ventriculoperitoneal shunt. "Within a few days I had switched my specialty from the liver to NPH," Conn says. "I met Salomon Hakim, who described NPH in 1965, and was practically adopted by him and his three sons, all of whom are neurosurgeons."

Conn's second career has included peer-reviewed articles about NPH, and, in 2006, an invitation by the director of the Hydrocephalus Institute in Göteborg, Sweden, to give the keynote address at a worldwide congress on the topic.

"I feel fortunate to work in this new field," Conn says, "where my new interest is in my own head. I now consider my first career as training for my second." —RK

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*An extended version, in Conn's own words*

