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NEWSLETTER #120 OCTOBER 2023



Donlin Long, MD, PhD 1934-2023

On this, the 10th anniversary of WIKISTIM, we are sad to report that Don Long, a pioneer in neuromodulation and pain treatment, died on September 19th while fly fishing in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Long had been the Vice President of The Neuromodulation Foundation since its inception in 2007. In addition to lending us his general support, he was enthusiastic about WIKISTIM from the moment we proposed developing this free resource. He not only continued to cheer us on, he and his wife, Harriett, also made generous monetary donations to the cause. Dr. Long's concern for patient care was unwavering and only matched by his efforts to educate neurosurgery fellows and residents. He continued until recently to see patients, in particular those with chronic, intractable pain.

Dr. Long was called to Johns Hopkins to chair the newly established Department of Neurosurgery in 1973, having earned his undergraduate and MD degrees at the University of Missouri, followed by a PhD in neuroanatomy and residency training in neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota. As a faculty member in Minnesota, he reported the earliest series of implanted peripheral nerve stimulators, the earliest

modern use of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation devices, and early experience with spinal cord stimulation (SCS). At Hopkins, he began a collaboration with the Applied Physics Laboratory, using technology adapted from space satellite power and telemetry systems to develop the first rechargeable, implantable pulse generator as well as the first programmable, implantable medication infusion system. He created a clinical program in neuromodulation, which offered the first use of percutaneous SCS electrodes for permanent implantation in 1977, and went on to publish decades of clinical followup, new clinical trials, and technical innovations. In parallel, he co-founded a multidisciplinary pain treatment program to which neurosurgery was one of several contributors, thus, establishing modern principles of pain management.

A master surgeon, he made every operation look straightforward (a word he used often), inspiring and training practitioners and leaders in all areas of neurosurgery (spinal, pediatric, etc.) and developing multispecialty programs not only in clinical practice but also in research. He taught “evidence based medicine” before it was in vogue, and he hosted a monthly Journal Club at his home for many years, broadening trainees’ views and serving as an inspiring role model. Likewise, before the term “diversity” entered common parlance, he incorporated its principles in his neurosurgical training program. He had broad interests in educational theory and philosophy that he developed and shared with the neurosurgical community.

It was Dr. Long’s good fortune and ours that he remained healthy and vigorous throughout his life. More than anything, he enjoyed practicing and teaching neurosurgery. He conveyed this spirit to many fortunate trainees and colleagues, and as we mourn the loss of a dear friend, this will live on.

Photo courtesy of Hopkins Medicine.



Thank you to Boston Scientific

We thank Boston Scientific for its generous grant to The Neuromodulation Foundation in support of our projects, including WIKISTIM. We are grateful for this acknowledgement of our work and support that will help us ride out the lingering effects of the pandemic.

Increase in the Number of Subscribers

WIKISTIM now has 1769 subscribers. Thank you for spreading the word!

Citations Added From Search on October 9, 2023

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Deep Brain Stimulation (now 7852 citations)

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