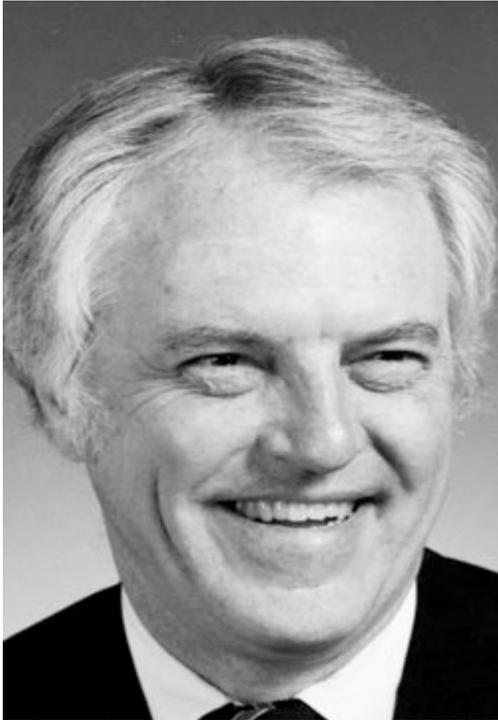




## Jerald R. Schenken, M.D.



**Department of Pathology  
and Microbiology**

**College of Medicine**

**University of Nebraska  
Medical Center**

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The Jerald R. Schenken, M.D. Outstanding Achievement in Pathology and Microbiology Award is presented to senior medical students graduating from the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Medicine, exemplifying outstanding professionalism and achieved scholastic excellence in the areas of pathology and microbiology while attending medical school. Dr. Schenken was extensively involved with medicine in general, not only pathology, so the award is open to all graduating senior medical students, regardless of the specialty in which they intend to practice.

The award was established by the generosity of more than 200 donors to honor Dr. Schenken, who was not only highly respected as a member of the Omaha medical community, but of the national medical community and the local and national economic and political communities as well. Dr. Schenken devoted more than 35 years to teaching medical students, physician trainees, practicing physicians and medical technologists, in addition to pursuing a successful career in pathology. He was a strong advocate for the healthcare profession and played an important role in assuring that skilled physicians and healthcare professionals are available in Nebraska.

Dr. Schenken was active in teaching medical students and medical technology students at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and was involved in many aspects of the College of Medicine's activities. He served on the faculty council for governance several times (1980-1983, 1985-1987, 1995-2001).

Dr. Schenken (October 11, 1933 – December 14, 2001) received his MD from Tulane University (1958), followed by a general internship at Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago and a residency in pathology at Charity Hospital in New Orleans (1959-1963). He obtained his board certification in anatomic and clinical pathology in 1963, and continued as a lifelong student of medicine and pathology. He later received subspecialty certification in clinical chemistry (1965) and in pediatric pathology (1990).

After serving as an instructor of pathology at Tulane Medical School from 1962-1965, as well as director of the laboratories for the Tulane Cancer Research Center and as forensic pathologist and coroner's physician for the Orleans parish, he moved to Omaha joining his father in practice in pathology at Methodist and Children's Hospitals in 1965, where he continued until his untimely death from cancer in 2001. He was Director of Pathology at Nebraska Methodist Hospital from 1974-1990 and at Children's Hospital from 1973-1990.

In addition to a successful and active career in pathology clinical service and in education, publishing extensively in scientific journals, he was also extraordinarily active in numerous pathology and medical organizations, pouring into these activities and causes his enormous



intellect and incredible energies. Amongst these organizations, which are too many to list, was the College of American Pathologists. He served on several committees, and was recognized as their Pathologist of the Year in 1983, received the first CAP Frank C. Coleman Award for public service in 1989 and also their first Russell J. Eilers Distinguished Service Award in 1989. For the American Society of Clinical Pathology, he also served on several committees and served on their Council of Clinical Chemistry, chairing the Council from 1969-1971. He also served on the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Scientific Advisory Board from 1993-1998. Most notably, he was a trustee of the American Board of Pathology from 1973-1985, serving as president from 1983-1984. Any of these achievements by themselves would have been remarkable, taken together they represent a truly remarkable contribution to the field of pathology.

But Dr. Schenken had much broader interests and involvements in medicine than just pathology. This led to his serving on the House of Delegates to the American Medical Association (AMA), for which he received a certificate of distinguished service. He ultimately served as a trustee of the AMA Board (1985-1994) and was a member of their executive committee (1986-1992). This broad interest in medicine is the basis for the award established in his honor being open to medical students regardless of specialty.

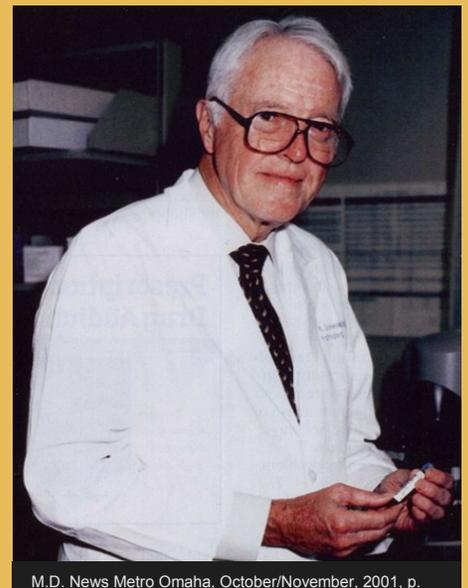
Dr. Schenken was also active in the community, serving an active role in numerous organizations. He was also active politically, serving on the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce board of directors and running for Congress in 1988. He was the Nebraska State Republican Party Chairman from 1991-1995. In addition to his numerous professional and community activities, he was also an avid golfer and basketball enthusiast. He was also a voracious reader and if he happened on an article, medical or otherwise, that he thought might interest you, he would send you a copy (before the days of the internet) with hand written comments or questions. If questions, he expected an answer. He was an amazing, personable and astute man.

For further details regarding Dr. Schenken's career, see [Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, 128: 616, 2004](#).

## The Jerald R. Schenken, M.D. Outstanding Achievement in Pathology and Microbiology Award

The Jerald R. Schenken, M.D. Outstanding Achievement in Pathology and Microbiology Award was established in 2000, initially as a tribute to his numerous contributions to the activities of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology and the College of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. However, it became a memorial award before the first student recipient after Dr. Schenken's untimely death in 2001 from cancer.

Three medical students are selected for this award annually, and Dr. Schenken's wife, Charlotte, hosts a dinner in their honor that is also attended by Dr. Schenken's children, John, Elizabeth, and Parker, if they are available.



M.D. News Metro Omaha, October/November, 2001, p.