

LAH: Date of event was December 2 2015

*School of Medicine*

The remarkable Richard Ross -- November 3, 2015

My personal relationships with Dick Ross, were unique. We shared the adventure of being indoctrinated into the fine art of deaning over the same period of time. He was appointed Dean of Medicine in 1975; I became Dean of the School of Hygiene and Public Health not long after. We left our posts in 1990. What a remarkable 15 years it was for us both!

On my arrival, it was explained to me that there was something called the Wolfe Street Canyon with Medicine occupying the west bank and the School of Hygiene and Public Health the east bank. The School was familiarly referred to simply as just "Hygiene" at that time. Gradually, "Hygiene" was dropped -- not the practice -- just the name.

We found ourselves to be in remarkable agreement with respect to professional development. The relevance of Ross's "synergistic triangle" of inter-mixed teaching, research, and patient care blended well with our growing array of initiatives to extend public health activities, education, and research throughout communities -- local, national, and international.

A distinctive venture was the Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology, and Clinical Research which had its principal offices within the School of Medicine but included faculty and students from both Schools and provided inspiration and leadership for the MD/PhD program. It was decided that the Director of the Center would hold a dual primary appointment in the Schools of Medicine and Public Health.

The most successful and important joint contributions of the two Schools were generated in the 1980's by the newly discovered and mysterious AIDS virus and the growing fear of the consequences of a pandemic. With leadership provided by John Bartlett and Dick Johnson from Medicine along with Frank Polk and Andrew Sorenson from Public Health, the world's largest and most comprehensive program on AIDS took form and continues today. From the time of its first meetings, mechanisms were sought to bring faculty and students together with patients as well as community and government representatives. And so a clinical program with laboratory research, special education initiatives, and active patient participation grew rapidly. By 1990, no other university had a program comparable to that of Hopkins that dealt so comprehensively with the AIDS program.

With the ever present support of Richard Ross as well as his enthusiasm and energy, we narrowed the Wolfe Street Canyon and gradually it effectively disappeared.



JOHNS HOPKINS  
M E D I C I N E

**Paul B. Rothman, M.D.**

*The Frances Watt Baker, M.D. and Lenox D. Baker, Jr., M.D.*

*Dean of the Medical Faculty*

*Chief Executive Officer*

December 9, 2015

Donald A. Henderson, M.D., M.P.H.  
Blakehurst  
1055 West Joppa Road  
Towson, MD 21204

Dear D. A.:

Often when actors or actresses receive an Academy Award, they say that few accolades are more valued than those bestowed by their peers. And they are right!

Your extraordinary remarks about our beloved Dick Ross could not have meant more to all of his family, friends and colleagues in attendance at the tribute in Hurd Hall on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please except our heartfelt thanks for being with us and sharing your thoughts and remembrances of a very great man, dean and dear friend.

With our very best wishes to you and your family for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Warm regards,

Paul B. Rothman, M.D.

Myron L. Weisfeldt, M.D.