

In Memory of Rodney A. Appell (1948-2009)

Rodney Appell grew up in Philadelphia and earned his undergraduate degree at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. He attended medical school at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and went on to complete his residency training in Urology at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Appell served on the faculty at Louisiana State University in New Orleans, and then spent many years practicing at the Cleveland Clinic. He moved to Houston in 2000, joining the faculty of the Scott Department of Urology at Baylor College of Medicine. This past year, he moved to the Vanguard Urologic Institute in Houston, serving as Director of the Texas Continence Center, while continuing to serve as a urology volunteer faculty member for both Baylor College of Medicine and University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He has authored more than 150 publications in urology, and received countless honors for his professional contributions, being listed on numerous occasions in *Best Doctors in America*, and recently receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Urodynamics and Female Urology (SUFU).

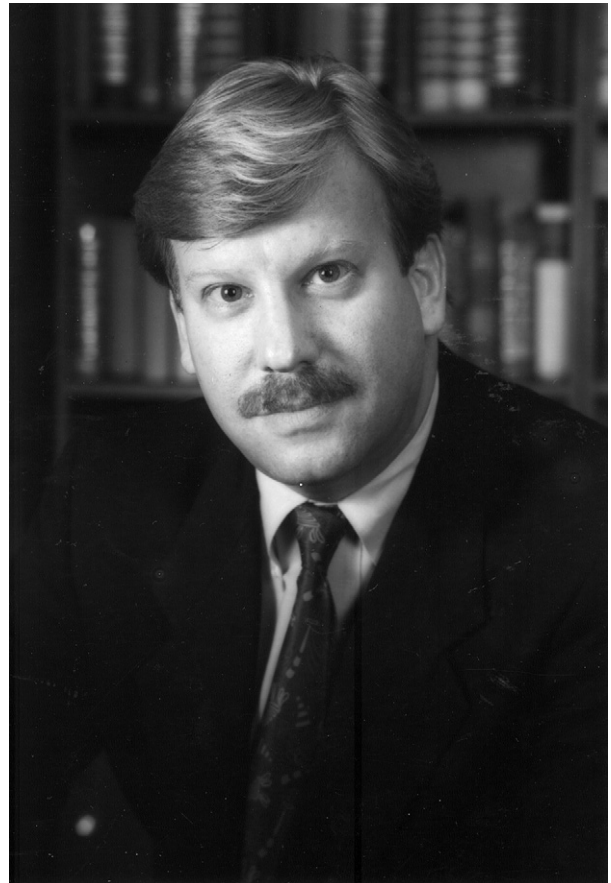
Dr. Appell was an extraordinary teacher and mentor, having trained countless students, residents, and fellows in the art and science of caring for patients with voiding dysfunction and incontinence.

Rod is survived by his wife, Susan, and his sons, Jarett and Gordon, and daughter-in-law Jennifer of New York City. Rod's untimely death leaves a great void for his family and his colleagues. He will be remembered for his seriousness of purpose, his directness in his personal interactions, and for his limitless love for his family, his friends, and his work.

A lasting memorial to Dr. Appell will be established through the Society for Urodynamics and Female Urology (SUFU); for contributions, please note "in Memory of Rodney Appell, M.D.", and send to SUFU Research Foundation, at 1100 E. Woodfield Rd, Suite 520, Schaumburg IL 60173.

Rodney touched the lives of many of us and to this end a short collection of eulogies and special thoughts have been listed here.

I remember Rod Appell as a gifted practitioner and a compassionate and good-hearted man who possessed the uncanny ability to frankly and openly disagree with his friends on clinical and uro-political issues with no residual rancor on either side. A quiet man outside of medicine, and never one for boisterous displays, Rod was



Rodney A. Appell

devoted to his family and his profession, which he always approached with objectivity and honesty. I will miss him.

Alan J. Wein, M.D., Ph.D. (hon)

One of the happiest days of my professional career was 9 years ago when Rodney said he would like to come to Houston and join me. I had known Rod for many years and I had come to respect his honesty, although his delivery was not always a crowd pleaser. In the last years, he became less of a fellow urologist and more of a brother through our honest conversations, deliberations, decisions, and disappointments. We laughed until we cried and we cried out of mutual frustration that we confronted together. I was one of the fortunate few who saw the exterior melt away and I was privileged to know Rod for all he was worth. That is a lot. An honest answer to every question, integrity above all, and a team player in a department of individuals like most chairs encounter.

Like all of you I will miss his wisdom and concise answers to clinical problems. More than that I will miss the loving husband, caring father, and steadfast friend I was so fortunate to have come into my life.

Tim Boone, M.D.

Like you all, I mourn the loss of Rod Appell. Since his untimely death, not a day has passed that I have not seen his face in my mind's eye. He did not smile as often as I would like, but when he did, it came from deep within. You could see the smile in his eyes and looking through those eyes you could see deep into the soul of a man who knew all too well the workings of the world. He cared passionately about all that he did. He strove to make the world a better place and became frustrated when he could not accomplish all that he thought necessary.

In my mind, his enduring legacy is less what he did in the public eye than what he did behind the scenes. He was a tireless worker on countless committees and in administrative positions. Whether a chairman or an officer or just another member of a committee, Rod gave it all. I have never worked with a more reliable person; he never missed a deadline or fell short on a commitment.

Rod was blessed with a wonderful wife and family. Sue was his constant companion, ever supportive, ever-present, and always quick with a smile. It was nice just being in their presence.

Jerry Blaivas, M.D.

It feels like yesterday when Rodney was receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at SUFU last year. Back then, he humbly shared with me his pride of being recognized for a lifetime of excellence and commitment to the care of women with incontinence issues. At that time, his life was not as rosy because he had decided to move his practice out of Baylor, a somewhat traumatic event after so many years of dedication to this famous urology training program. Going back in time, I had met him and his wife several decades ago at the FUN (Female Urology and Neurology) group meeting in California. Over the years, I had the opportunity to get to know him better through meetings, visits to his institutions (Cleveland Clinic and later on Baylor, Houston), and to appreciate his insightful comments and vast expertise on multiple topics. He supported me at many occasions during my tenure as SUFU President and always remained truthful and direct in his advice. His presence will always remain with me and I will miss him very much the way so many others do.

Philippe Zimmern, M.D.

Rodney's 16 years as a mentor and friend allowed us at the Cleveland Clinic to learn through his teachings and actions what the greater meaning of achieving authentic

manhood represents in one's life: one who rejects passivity, one who accepts responsibility, one who leads courageously, and one who expects and experiences the great rewards of God through his family, friends, colleagues, and patients. To Susan, Jarrett, Gordon, and Jennifer, thank you for allowing Rodney to share with us his gift of life and know that the impact of his legacy will be within us all forever.

On behalf of Rodney's friends, colleagues, residents, and fellows of the Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute.

Raymond Rackley, M.D., and Sandip Vasavada, M.D.

A Friend and Mentor

Rodney Appell has left a wonderful legacy for urology and pelvic floor medicine. His scientific contributions certainly are a significant aspect of this, as he always attempted to advance surgical and medical therapy for women and men with pelvic floor dysfunction. However, it is his ability to touch the lives of others with his humor, solicitude, and concern, which may be his most lasting and remembered addition. He served as mentor, confidant, and friend to a generation of young practitioners. His unique ability to teach and embrace the young will be greatly missed.

Roger Dmochowski, M.D.

I have the professional distinction of being Rodney Appell's first fellow. I have the more treasured personal honor of being one of Rodney Appell's many friends.

When I think about Rodney Appell, I always think of common sense. He always approached even the most complex conditions with a practical, no nonsense approach. He made it all so simple. I am also reminded of his unique intensity of effort. With Rodney Appell, you knew where you stood—good or bad. As I and subsequent fellows grew to know the man, we never doubted that his intensity of effort was all about getting the best out of us and then ultimately the best for us.

I tell my students and residents that no matter how long and difficult training is, it will always be a special time in their lives. A time when you will bond with someone who will shape, influence, and ultimately become part of the fabric of your being. To me, Rodney Appell was one of those special people.

To Susan, Gordon, Jarrett, and Jennifer, thank you for sharing Rodney with us. Thank you for allowing Rodney to influence my life and the lives of many others.

To Rodney, I hope you realized before you left us how much you meant to me and my family. I will miss you intensely, and never forget you. God Bless.

Chris Winters, M.D.