CARL W. EBERBACH, M.D.

Dr. Carl Eberbach arrived in Milwaukee in 1928, having moved here from his ancestral home in Ann Arbor, Michigan. At the University of Michigan Medical School he had been an Associate Professor of Surgery and was Acting Dean of the Medical School under Dr. Hugh Cabot, one of the pioneers in Urology in this country.

Dr. Eberbach’s early beginnings were in the field of Urology, in which he was a substantial contributor to the medical literature in the 1920’s. He wrote on many aspects of genitourinary surgery, especially in the field of congenital anomalies. His monograph on renal tuberculosis was considered an outstanding work. His later years in Ann Arbor, however, were in the field of General Surgery, and it was in this capacity that he took up his new work in Milwaukee at the age of 37.

His leaning toward academic medicine was strong, and he maintained a vital interest in our medical school throughout his professional life in Milwaukee. He was Chairman of the Department of Surgery for eight years before the arrival of Dr. Edwin Ellison in 1958, and was instrumental in bringing Dr. Ellison here from Ohio State University.

Dr. Eberbach regarded himself as a clinical surgeon, and his self-appraisal is reflected in his writings, principally in the fields of biliary tract surgery and in the management of breast cancer.

The Eberbach Family Foundation was established in 1962 through a bequest from Dr. Eberbach. He and his wife, Elizabeth (Falk) supported and led dozens of charitable causes, chiefly concerned with fighting cancer. The Eberbach Family Foundation Fund distributes half of its grants to the Department of Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin and divides 30 percent among nine other causes. The balance is unrestricted.

The Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Surgery orchestrates four annual lectures, each perpetuating the legacy of four renowned surgeons and the significant contributions they made to their field in surgery:

Carl W. Eberbach, M.D.

Edwin H. Ellison, M.D.

C. Morrison Schroeder, M.D.

Jonathan B. Towne, M.D.

49th ANNUAL
CARL W. EBERBACH MEMORIAL LECTURE

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Keynote Speaker:
Jeffrey L. Ponsky, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Oliver H. Payne Professor and Chairman
Department of Surgery
Case Western Reserve University
School of Medicine
Cleveland, Ohio
The 49th Annual Carl W. Eberbach Lecturer at Froedtert Hospital and The Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Ponsky is past President of the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), past President of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, past President of the Cleveland Surgical Society, and past President of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE). He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a member of numerous prominent surgical societies. He was recently the Chairman of the American Board of Surgery.

Dr. Ponsky is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and earned his Executive MBA from CWRU’s Weatherhead School of Management in 1990. He received the distinguished Kaiser Teaching Excellence Award at CWRU School of Medicine in 1993; the Distinguished Service Award by the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons in April 2000; and in 2002 he received ASGE’s Rudolf Schindler Award, the highest recognition award for excellence in endoscopic research, teaching and service. In 2005 he received the Pioneer in Endoscopy Award from the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons. Dr. Ponsky has been listed in The Best Doctors in America® each year since its inception. He has published over 200 original articles and book chapters, authored or edited five textbooks and serves on the editorial board of eight journals. He is the originator of the percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy which provided a minimally invasive substitute for operative placement of a feeding tube.