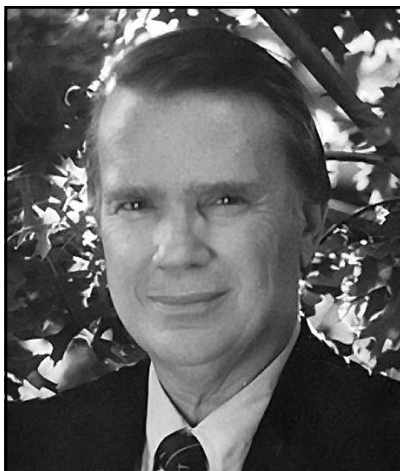


In Memoriam



Robert Fulton Cathcart III, M.D.

October 13, 1932 – October 17, 2007

“Discovery,” noted Albert Szent-Györgyi (whose own discoveries included ascorbic acid), “consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.” That epigram fits our colleague Bob Cathcart, whose observations on clinical use of ascorbic acid drew worldwide renown, along with the respect of Linus Pauling.

A native of Texas, Bob came to Northern California as a child and spent most of his life in the Bay Area. He earned his medical degree from the University of California in San Francisco in 1961, then completed his internship and residency at Stanford Hospital. Bob was an instructor in orthopedic surgery at Stanford after his residency.

While at Stanford, Bob looked at the head of the human femur and thought about it in a different way. Whereas earlier designers of prosthetic hips had assumed the head to be spherical, Bob observed it

to be ellipsoidal and designed a prosthesis accordingly. The “Cathcart Prosthesis,” which has been implanted in over 100,000 hips, has provided more functionality and durability than the earlier product.

Bob became interested in vitamin C when he read Linus Pauling’s Vitamin C and the Common Cold, and he began using it for his own allergies and his patients’ viral infections. He thought about a common side effect of high-dose ascorbate, namely diarrhea, in a new way. He observed that a person’s tolerance for the vitamin increased considerably in the presence of viral illness, seemingly in proportion to the severity of the illness. A person who ordinarily develops diarrhea from, say, a 12-gram dose of ascorbate, might be able to tolerate upwards of 100 grams when ill with a cold or flu. Bob found that titration of vitamin C dosage to bowel tolerance permitted optimal therapy and, therefore, quicker resolution

of an illness.

Bob treated many patients with vitamin C megadoses—at least 7,000 during his first seven years in Incline Village, and more in San Mateo and Los Altos, where he also practiced. He was a popular lecturer at medical meetings, where he freely shared his findings with his colleagues. However, he was not well published. Like Linus Pauling himself, Robert Cathcart encountered rejection and even scorn at the hands of scientific and medical journal editors. The Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine is proud to be one of the few platforms to have brought Bob's work to the attention of the world's healing professions.

Bob Cathcart was honored many times by professional associations, and received the Linus Pauling Award from the Society for Orthomolecular Health Medicine in 2002. He was scheduled to be inducted into the Orthomolecular Medicine Hall of Fame in 2007, but asked to have the honor postponed until he was feeling well enough to travel. Now, Dr. Cathcart will be inducted posthumously in Vancouver on May 3, 2008.

Bob was variously described as “a visionary giant” (by Steve Lawson at the Linus Pauling Institute) and as “a modest man of courage and conviction” (by his family). Everyone who knew him admired and respected him. His retirement in 2007 elicited many messages of gratitude and support from his patients and colleagues.

Bob leaves behind his partner of 27 years, Alice Schenk; his three children Lisa, Holly and Rob Cathcart; his step-children Suzanne and Debra Schenk; and his brother Allen. He leaves, in addition, a reminder for all who would do science: progress and success rest more on dispassionate observation and creative thinking than on all the gee-whiz technology mankind has ever come up with.

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