

2009 Dickson Awardee: Robert Hamburger

A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Robert was a P-38 pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. After his military service, Robert attended medical school at Yale University. After graduation, he worked at a hospital and then served as a Yale faculty member before being recruited by Dr. David Bonner to join the Biology Department at the newly established UC campus in La Jolla. In 1964, he was appointed by the UC San Diego Chancellor as Assistant Dean at the School of Medicine and served in this position for 8 years.



Dr. Hamburger also served as the first Chief of the Division of Pediatric Immunology and Allergy between 1970 and 1990, establishing one of the preeminent training programs in the country. He was responsible for the training of dozens of Allergy Immunology fellows who have practiced locally and around the world, and therefore has had a significant impact on the specialty.

Robert retired from the university in 1990 and was active in the UC San Diego Emeriti Association, and served as President. He continued to be actively involved in fellow, resident, and medical student education on the UCSD campus and as an attending professor at Rady Children's Hospital, the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic Project, and the St. Vincent de Paul Clinic in San Diego. He also continued to contribute to research on Allergy and Immunology and published numerous articles. He served as CEO of RNA & Co. and Chairman of BioVigilant Systems, Inc. Robert was honored as a Life Fellow of the Academy of Pediatrics and a Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Allergists. He continued to be a regular attendee and participant at San Diego Allergy Society lectures and in the weekly Citywide Allergy Immunology Fellows conference up until the week he died.

Robert N. Hamburger passed away on October 6, 2014, at the age of 91.

One of the founding fathers of UCSD School of Medicine, he will also be remembered as an American hero, astute clinician, an innovative scientist, a dedicated educator, a committed activist, devoted philanthropist, and caring husband and father.