

Harkins Society Selects Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD as First Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

At its annual dinner in October 2012, the Harkins Society celebrated the work of **Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini** in support of surgical training at the University of Washington by awarding him its Lifetime Achievement Award. In front of the packed dining room audience at the Seattle Yacht Club, Dr. Pellegrini's award was celebrated by influential surgeons and scholars from around the world. The group praised Dr. Pellegrini's long-standing tradition of scholarship, mentorship, education, friendship and philanthropy.



Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD receiving the Harkins Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Ted Kohler, MD.

Dr. Pellegrini has long been a donor to the educational fund administered by the Harkins Society. The fund provides University of Washington surgical trainees with surgical loupes, textbooks and travel to professional meetings. Recently, The Society established a research grant for residents and a relief fund for trainee family emergencies. In the past year, Dr. Pellegrini pledged an amount that would double the largest single contribution up to that time.

"I should have told him we'd received a donation that was half our total campaign goal, but I did not think quickly enough," joked **Dr. Ted Kohler**, president of The Society.

The Harkins Society was started in 1955 by University of Washington surgical trainees and department staff as a spoof to celebrate the 50th birthday of the department's first chair, Dr. Henry N. Harkins. Originally called "The Society of the Golden Pouch," the society was named for the stomach pouch model used by Dr. Harkins to study GI physiology and peptic ulcer disease. Dr. Harkins is

described as "the epitome of the academic surgeon, being at once a spirited teacher, investigator, student, scholar, and an important contributor to the worldwide medical scene." As the first department chair, Harkins shaped the new program by recruiting other academic chairs and faculty. Dr. Harkins died of a heart attack at age 62 during a department picnic after achieving a life-long goal of getting up on a slalom water ski.

According to Dr. Kohler, The Society has now created a Facebook presence where alumni of the surgery training program at the University of Washington can view and post photos and stories about themselves and other alumni. If you are an alumni and wish to access The Society's Facebook group page, please contact Dr. Ted Kohler at kohler@u.washington.edu.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/305217632830951>

To support its resident programs, The Society has set a fundraising goal of \$25,000 this year. A website for donations, which also contains more department photos and a video from this year's residents, can be found at: <http://fundly.com/harkinssociety>.



Dr. Pellegrini's Harkins Society Lifetime Achievement Award acceptance speech.