

## **Robert H. Knopp, MD (1930–2010)**

Robert H. Knopp, MD, was an accomplished physician, a dedicated teacher, and a prodigious scholar who made numerous and major meritorious contributions in the field of lipid metabolism and related disorders. He was a member of the Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Nutrition in the Department of Medicine for 36 years and headed its section at Harborview Medical Center for 17 years. He was also an adjunct professor of obstetrics and gynecology and one of the early promoters of heart health for women. In 2008, he was named the first holder of the Robert B. McMillen Professorship in Lipid Research at UW Medicine.

A New York native and graduate of Colgate University and Cornell University Medical College, Dr. Knopp interned at Boston City Hospital before completing a residency and research fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism at Northwestern University. Afterward, he served in the Diabetes and Arthritis Field Research Unit of the U.S. Public Health Service and then joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School.

In 1974 he was recruited to Seattle to be associate director of the Northwest Lipid Research Clinic to lead the UW contribution to the landmark national Coronary Primary Prevention Trial (CPPT), which was the first multicenter U.S. trial to demonstrate that reduction of circulating levels of total and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels (via pharmacological means with the nonabsorbed bile acid binding resin cholestyramine) could prevent coronary heart disease. He became director of the Northwest Lipid Research Clinic in 1978, a position he maintained until his death. He also directed the Clinical Research Core of the UW Clinical Nutrition Research Unit.

He mentored numerous fellows in endocrinology, cardiology, and nutritional sciences and was a strong advocate for nutrition education as part of the medical school curriculum. He also was a talented musician, a dedicated family man, and active in his church and community.

Knopp was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American College of Physicians, a past president of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, and a past board member of the National Lipid Association. Among his honors, he received the Lester R. Savage Hope Heart Award, a Distinguished Scientist Award from the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, a Distinguished Service Citation from the American Diabetes Association, and a Meritorious Service Award of the American Heart Association of Washington.

(Source: [depts.washington.edu/meddev/uwmedmagazine/also-in-this-issue/passages/robert-knopp.php](https://depts.washington.edu/meddev/uwmedmagazine/also-in-this-issue/passages/robert-knopp.php))