

**ACP**  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

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**Alabama Chapter**

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*Laureate Awards*



“No  
**person**  
was ever  
*honored*  
for what  
he *received*.  
**Honour**  
has been the  
*reward*  
for what **he**  
*gave.*”

- Calvin Coolidge

## Laureate Award

The Laureate Award honors those Fellows and Masters of the College who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, or research and in service to their community, their Chapter, and the American College of Physicians.

The recipient of this award shall bear the title *Laureate of the Alabama Chapter*.

These awards shall be presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The awardees should accept the recognition in person, unless excused by the Governor. The awardees are to be nominated by a process that may originate from the Awards Committee or from any member of the Chapter. The nomination must document the attributes and accomplishments of the nominee.

The awardees shall be senior physicians and Fellows or Masters of long-standing, with acknowledged excellence and peer approval in the field of internal medicine. In addition, the awardees should have served their Chapter with distinction. Exceptional circumstances may modify these requirements.

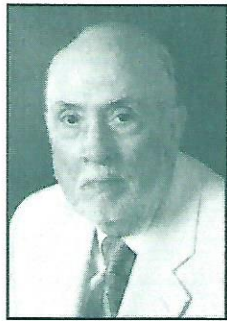
It is with distinct pleasure that this year, the Alabama Chapter presents the Laureate Award to Paul W. Burlison, MD, FACP, and Edwin A. Rutsky, MD, FACP. They are long-standing and loyal supporters of the College, have rendered distinguished service to the Chapter, and have upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the College is known.

We salute and honor them on this occasion, and we wish them and their families well in the future.

**James R. Bonner, MD, FACP**  
**Governor, Alabama Chapter**



**Paul W. Burleson, MD,  
FACP**



Paul Burleson, M.D., grew up in Birmingham, attended Phillips High School and in 1938 graduated from Birmingham-Southern College. After two preclinical years at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, he transferred to George Washington University, receiving his medical degree in 1942. His postgraduate training included the University of Alabama in Birmingham, the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and the New England Medical Center in Boston. His medical training was interrupted by a 30-month tour of duty as a Naval Flight Surgeon during WW II, including 18 months in the South Pacific. In 1950 he again served in the Navy during the Korean War—this time for nine months—rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Dr. Burleson practiced internal medicine in Birmingham for 35 years. Except for an occasional vacation and trips to medical meetings, he was always on call and available to his patients. He was considered a top doctor in Birmingham, and although most associated with St. Vincent's Hospital, he was also active on the teaching services of University Hospital as Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine. At the time of his retirement in 1986, he was appointed Professor of Medicine Honoris Causa.

Throughout his career, Dr. Burleson was involved in organized medicine as an active member of numerous organizations, including the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA), AMA, Southern Medical Association, Birmingham Society of Internists, and ACP. He was a founder of the Alabama Chapter of the American Society of Internal

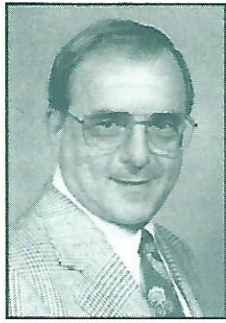
Medicine (ASIM) and served as the first President. He was elected Alabama Delegate to the AMA and served that organization in several capacities, including Council on Medical Service. He was also elected to the Alabama State Board of Censors and was appointed by the governor to the State Board of Mental Health on which he served as chairman. The Paul W. Burleson Award is presented annually by MASA to a state physician in recognition of a medical career that encompasses not only high ethical and professional standards in patient care, but also includes extraordinary service to physician organizations at the county, state and national levels.

Dr. Burleson's success as an investor has enabled him to become a philanthropist. He has made generous gifts to UAB and the St. Vincent's Foundation and has endowed scholarship programs at Birmingham-Southern, UAB, and George Washington University. He and his wife, the former Martha Ray Draughn, have also established the Paul W. Burleson Chair of Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine at UAB.

Dr. Burleson has been the recipient of numerous awards, including: Distinguished Alumnus, Birmingham-Southern (1986); Doctor of Laws, Birmingham-Southern (1986); the Ira L. Myers Service Award for Distinguished Service to Medicine and Humanity (1997); the UAB Alumnus Award for Community Service (1998); the Garber Galbraith Award for Medical and Political Service (1998); and the UAB School of Medicine Dean's Medal for Distinguished Service (2001). To this impressive list we are pleased to add the Alabama ACP Laureate Award 2004.



**Edwin A. Rutsky, MD,  
FACP**



Edwin Rutsky, MD, is a native of Ohio where he attended Oberlin College, graduating cum laude in 1961. Four years later he was awarded his Medical Degree from Case Western Reserve University and was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honor society. His internship and residency were completed at Duke University under Dr. Eugene Stead. After his residency, he stayed at Duke to complete a fellowship in nephrology and then returned to Ohio for a year as Chief Medical Resident at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital. Following his medical training, he served in the United States Navy for two years as director of the Hemodialysis Unit at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia.

In 1971 Dr. Rutsky began his long career at UAB when he joined Dr. Tom Andreoli in the Department of Medicine's Nephrology Division. He soon became recognized by the house staff as a demanding attending physician dedicated to excellence in patient care. For 25 years Dr. Rutsky was director of the Home Dialysis Training Program at University Hospital. His major research interests have been in dialysis and other aspects of end stage renal disease. In 1978, just seven years after beginning his academic career, he was promoted to the rank of full professor. He has been a visiting professor of medicine at seven different medical schools.

Dr. Rutsky has received the US Navy Achievement Medal and the Alabama Kidney Association's Gift of Life Award. He has been recognized as Outstanding Teacher of the Division of Nephrology where he has

mentored a generation of practicing clinical nephrologists. In 2000 the UAB Department of Medicine created the C. Glenn Cobbs, MD—Edwin A. Rutsky, MD Award for Clinical Excellence, which is presented annually to physicians recognized by their peers for excellence in patient care.

Dr. Rutsky retired from the regular faculty in 1997, at which time he was awarded the status of Emeritus Professor of Medicine. Since this "retirement", he has remained active in teaching and has practiced general internal medicine at the Kirklin Clinic.

Despite being reared in the city, Dr. Rutsky is an avid outdoorsman and expert fly fisher. He has been active in the Birmingham Jewish community as a member of Temple Beth-El, the Community Relations Council of the Birmingham Jewish Federation and the Board of Directors of the Birmingham Jewish Foundation. Ed and Judy Rutsky have been married 35 years; they have two children, Josh and Rebecca.

For his outstanding achievements as a medical educator and caring physician, the Alabama Chapter of the ACP is pleased to honor him with the Laureate Award.