

Distinguished Alumni Award: Dr. Ralph Roderic Abbott, class of 1945

For the past fifty years, Dr. Abbott has devoted his time and efforts to cancer research and care of cancer patients. Upon graduation from U-High, Rod Abbott attended Illinois State University, where he completed his premedical education in 1948. In 1952 he received his medical doctorate from Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. Completion of this degree was the platform for his life in medicine, a life spent dedicated to cancer research and patient care.

Dr. Abbott served in a number of different institutions during his fifty years in the medical profession. He worked in hospitals in Chicago, New York, and New Mexico. From 1955 to 1957, Dr. Abbott served in the United States Navy at Key West Naval Hospital, Florida. In 1961 he received board certification from the American Board of Internal Medicine. He taught at the University of Buffalo as an Instructor of Medicine from 1958 to 1960. From there he went to Hurley Medical Center in Flint, Michigan, where he was Director of Medical Education and Research from 1961 to 1964 and Chief of Hematology and Oncology from 1964 to 1965. From 1965 to 1984, Dr. Abbott was an Instructor of Medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan. Until 1995 he served as Chief of Hematology and Oncology at McLaren General Hospital in Flint, Michigan; Clinical Professor at Michigan State University; Director of Comprehensive Cancer Care at the Hurley Medical Center in Flint; and Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine also at Hurley Medical Center. From 1997 to the present he has served as a medical consultant at the Genesys Hurley Cancer Institute.

During his prestigious career, Dr. Abbott was named the 1990 Michigan State Internal Medicine Residency Program Teacher of the Year. He is a member of the American Heart Association, American College of Physicians, and American Society of Clinical Oncology and has published over twenty articles relevant to his medical research. He currently resides in Sedona, Arizona, where he is actively involved in community affairs.