

In Memoriam




Frank Tardrew Falkner, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.H., professor emeritus of maternal and child health at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, and an internationally recognized leader in the field of pediatric growth and development, died at his Berkeley home on August 21, 2003, at age 84.

Born in Hale-Cheshire, England, Falkner received his medical degree from the University of Cambridge. He joined the faculty

of the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky in 1956; soon thereafter he became chair of the Department of Pediatrics. There Falkner was one of the first researchers to study twins in the evaluation of genetic versus environmental influences on growth. Later he became program director and then associate director at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. In 1970, he joined the Fels Research Institute to direct the Fels Longitudinal Study of Physical Growth and Development, the oldest and largest growth study in the world, which formed the basis of the North American Standard Tables of Height and Weight.

Falkner held faculty positions at various other universities, including Georgetown University and the University of Michigan, before joining the University of California in 1981. During his tenure at UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco, where he held a joint appointment as professor of pediatrics, he helped form the Joint Health and Medical Sciences Program. While at UC Berkeley, he served as chair of the former Department of Social and Administrative Health Sciences from 1983 to 1987, and of the Maternal and Child Health Program from 1981 until his retirement in 1989.

Falkner co-edited two editions of *Human Growth: A Comprehensive Treatise*, an encyclopedia widely considered the first comprehensive treatment of the topic. He served as a U.S. diplomat with the Family Health Division of the World Health Organization and as coordinator at the Centre International de L'Enfance Growth Studies in Paris. He was also editor-in-chief of the *International Child Health Journal*. His numerous honors included the International Pediatric Association Medal and membership in the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health.

An accomplished musician, Falkner continued playing piano even after suffering a debilitating stroke in 1998. He was also an avid race car enthusiast. He is survived by his daughter, Sally Letzer, of Calabasas, California; son, Michael Falkner, of Wiernsheim-Pinache, Germany; and two grandchildren. 

Eloy A. Barreda, M.P.H. '59, died May 3, 2003, at age 85. Barreda had been an engineer for the State of Texas; a public health official for the city of Corpus Christi, Texas; a sanitary engineer for the Institute of Inter-American Affairs in Bolivia; a U.S. public health chief in Peru and Honduras; an instructor at the Philippines Malaria Education School in Manila; and a public health adviser at the U.S. Regional Aid Program for Central America. He is survived by a son, William Barreda of Austin, Texas; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Henry S. Richanbach, M.D., M.P.H. '82, died April 14, 2003, at his home in San Mateo, California. Richanbach was medical director for the Child Health and Disabilities Prevention Program and the California Children's Service in the Department of Public Health of the city and county of San Francisco from 1988 until his retirement in 1998. Born in 1927 in Portland, Oregon, he served in the U.S. Army as a laboratory technician. He received his bachelor's degree from Reed College; his medical degree from Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine; and he completed his pediatric training at East Bay Children's Hospital and Stanford Medical Center. He practiced as a pediatrician in Burlingame, California, for 22 years. Richanbach was an early authority on attention deficit disorder in children and helped formulate state legislation to provide resources to disabled children. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Etta Bryant Richanbach, as well as three

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sons, two daughters-in-law, four stepchildren, a sister and brother-in-law, and 11 grandchildren.

Natalie J. Smith, M.D., M.P.H. '93, died August 22, 2003, at age 41, of cancer. Smith was deputy director of the CDC's National Immunization Program. Prior to that, she served for eight years as chief of the Immunization Branch at the California Department of Health Services. Smith earned her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her medical degree from UCLA School of Medicine. Before joining the California Department of Health Services, she worked as a family practitioner; she also worked in the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Department of Health and Human Services. She served on numerous national committees, including the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Smith played a prominent role in bioterrorism issues with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. She made critical scientific contributions to the success of nationwide immunization programs, including a frequently-cited study in California demonstrating that the vast majority of autism cases cannot be related to measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine. She is survived by her daughter, Maya Schechter; her parents, Doris and J.B. Smith; a sister and a brother.

(Gladys) Lisa Toalson, M.P.H. '84, died March 8, 2003, at her home in Corvallis, Oregon, at age 51. Originally from Texas, she lived in the Berkeley area for 25 years before moving to Oregon. She attended the College of Alameda and received her undergraduate degree in dietetics from San Francisco State University. She worked in San Francisco at the Tenderloin Senior Outreach Project and then as a health educator at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, California. After moving to Oregon, she became education manager of Pacific Communities Hospital (now Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital). In 1999, she entered a doctoral program in public health at Oregon State University. She was actively involved in the Christian Children's Fund and volunteered for causes of peace and the care of the disadvantaged. She is survived by her husband, James R. Schmidgall, as well as two sisters, two stepsons, two aunts, an uncle, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Robert G. Webster, M.P.H. '47, died June 17, 2003, in Oakland at age 97. Born in Grand Forks, North Dakota, he spent his career in public health, first for Los Angeles County, then for the State of California Health Department as chief deputy director. He received his undergraduate degree from University of Southern California. Webster was instrumental in moving the Health Department from San Francisco to Berkeley, adjacent to the School of Public Health. Early in his career he was national president of the Baptist Young People's Union, and he remained active in a church in every community in which he lived. He is survived by his wife, Nora; two sons, Donald and Robert Jr.; a daughter, Gretchen; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. 🍷



Roderick D. Hamblin, M.P.H. '64, died May 29, 2003, at age 80. A member of the Public Health Alumni Association's board of directors, he received both his degrees from UC Berkeley—his B.S. in microbiology in 1943 and his M.P.H. in 1964.

Born in Wyoming, Hamblin moved with his family to Nebraska before settling in California. He served as a communications and personnel officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In 1945, he began working for the U.S. Biological Research Unit in Berkeley. He was director of the Public Health Laboratory in San Bernardino County, California, from 1947 to 1958. From there he joined the Laboratory Field Services of the California State Department of Health Services in Berkeley, serving as its branch chief from 1980 until his retirement in 1987. He was instrumental in developing such high laboratory quality standards that he was asked to help develop national laboratory standards for the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

He authored numerous articles in laboratory science and laboratory management, including "California's State and Local Regulatory Agencies," published in the March 1976 issue of *Pathologist*; and "Growth and Development in California," a chapter in *Federal Legislation and the Clinical Laboratory* (Schaeffer M, ed., GK Hall, Medical Publishers, 1981). He was respected by his colleagues as a dedicated and talented administrator.

He is survived by his wife of more than 52 years, Frances Ann; daughters Debbie and Cheryl; son-in-law Rick Palazzo; grandson, Michael; step-grandchildren Andrew Palazzo and Jennifer Moore, her husband Scott, and their daughter Savannah Jane.

Hamblin was devoted to the University and took much pride in the evolution of the campus. Those interested in making a gift to the School of Public Health in memory of Roderick D. Hamblin may send a check payable to the School of Public Health Fund, with a notation reading "In memory of Roderick D. Hamblin," to the attention of Pat Hosel, Office of External Relations & Development, 140 Warren Hall #7360, School of Public Health, Berkeley, CA 94720-7360. 🍷