



DR. ERNEST E. IRONS (LEFT), JOHN W. GOFMAN
U. C. Medical School Follows a British Tradition

U. C. Medical Student Receives Cane Award

John William Gofman today is the possessor of a gold-headed cane, presented to him last night in recognition of his professional capabilities as a student at the University of California Medical School.

The cane presentation, a tradition borrowed from English universities, and established here by Dr. William J. Kerr, professor of medicine, was made by Dr. Ernest E. Irons of Chicago, noted medical authority, who was the

principal speaker on the occasion at Toland Hall last night.

A cane similar to that received by Gofman also was presented to Dr. Irons by Dr. Kerr.

Dr. Francis S. Smythe, dean of the medical school, delivered one of the principal addresses of the evening after which sixty-nine members of the last graduating class under the wartime accelerated training program received printed scrolls of the Oath of Hippocrates.

1045 Clayton Street
San Francisco, California 94117
March 24, 1986

Professor Lloyd H. Smith, Jr., M.D.
Associate Dean
School of Medicine
513 Parnassus Avenue- S-224
San Francisco, California 94143

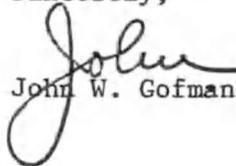
Dear Professor Smith;

Enclosed are the various items for your collection of materials on the Gold-Headed Cane holders. If any of the materials need supplementation, please let me know, and I will respond promptly.

Under separate cover, I am sending you copies of two recent books I have written. They are not needed for this specific purpose, but I would like you to have them in your collection.

With warmest good wishes.

Sincerely,


John W. Gofman

1(c) (All prior parts of 1 are in the C.V.)

What is your specialty? I have devoted just about all of my professional life to medical research and teaching. My areas of medical research have included the biophysics and biochemistry of serum low-density and high-density lipoproteins, the basis for atherosclerosis and coronary heart disease, the relationship of chromosomes to human cancer, and the various effects (cancer, leukemia, congenital, and genetic effects) of ionizing radiation.

2. What is your main hobby outside of medicine?

Ocean fishing. Since 1957, my son and I have operated one boat or another first in San Francisco Bay (striped bass fishing under the Golden Gate bridge), then in the Pacific Ocean (salmon trolling). More recently I have fished with my son in the Juan De Fuca Straits between the U.S. and Canada, or in Ketchikan and Kodiak, Alaska. I love the ocean and fishing for salmon and halibut.

3. Who has been the most influential person in the development of your professional career? (or one in basic science and one in clinical work).

There have been two.

In basic science, namely chemistry, I had the good fortune to work with Professor Wendell Latimer during the war years at the Chemistry Department in U.C. Berkeley. Professor Latimer was a thermodynamicist of the first rank, with a special interest in the oxidation-reduction potentials in inorganic chemistry. He really taught me how to think in quantitative chemical terms, and I regard that experience as the most influential in my own future research work in quantitative medical science.

In clinical medicine, there was one towering figure whom I respected, admired, and loved for his elegance as a real physician— that was Professor Leroy Briggs, who taught us clinical medicine in the third year at the San Francisco General Hospital. He had such uncommon common sense and used it clinically. He just exemplified for me all the attributes of a great physician in every way.

I am sure many others must have shared my view, for I can relate an interesting set of observations. We had several lecture courses on Saturday mornings. Many students missed the lectures before 10:00 AM and after 11:00 AM. But the class from 10 to 11 was always full of students— Bedside Medicine taught by Leroy Briggs'.

4. In looking back, was there any single experience, of course, at UCSF, that was of the greatest importance to you?

Actually the single experience that I have treasured the most occurred about three years after graduation from U.C. Medical School. I was then doing my research on lipoproteins and coronary disease on the Berkeley Campus. So far as I knew. Professor Leroy Briggs did not know me from Adam. To my great surprise, one day in about 1951, Dr. Briggs called me on the telephone and said, "John, you know a hell of a lot more about coronary disease than I do. Will you give the lecture on coronary disease in my course at the County Hospital on "Bedside Medicine"? " And I did give the lecture in his course for two years.

Nothing has meant more to me in all my career in terms of recognition. The idea that Leroy Briggs would invite me to give a lecture in his course was astounding to me, and that he thought enough of me in medicine to give the lecture still ranks as the most happy experience of my career.

Addition to C.V. for John W. Gofman

The Recent Period

Research has centered on the issue of low-dose ionizing radiation and its impact on human health.

Books Written during this period.

John W. Gofman Radiation and Human Health Sierra Club Books, San Francisco 1981

John W. Gofman and Egan O'Connor XTRAYS: Health Effects of Common Exams
Sierra Club Books , San Francisco, 1985

jJohn W. Gofman Radiation-Induced Cancer from Low-Dose Exposure : An Independent
Analysis In Press 1990

Monograph

John W. Gofman "Assessing Chernobyl's Cancer Consequences : Application of
Four "Laws" of Radiation Carcinogenesis"

A Presentation at the 192nd National Meeting of the American Chemical
Society, Anaheim, California 94720 Symposium on Low-Level Radiation
Division of Chemical Health and Safety

Presentation

John W. Gofman "The Cancer-Leukemia Risk from Ionizing Radiation: Let's
have a closer look," presentation as a panelist at the Symposium on
Radiation Risk : Assessment and Application (Charles B. Meinhold,
presiding), Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement
of Science, Detroit, Michigan, May30, 1983.