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Dr. Robert White CV

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Professional Biographical Sketch
Robert J. White, M.D., Ph.D.

Author, scientist and world renowned brain surgeon. Dr. White, is Professor of Neurological Surgery at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (CWRU) and formerly Co-Chairman of Neurosurgery at the CWRU School of Medicine. Until recently, he was the Director of the Division of Neurosurgery and the Brain Research Laboratory at the MetroHealth Medical Center. He is internationally known for his expertise in clinical brain surgery and for his contributions to our basic understanding of the central nervous system. As a result of his laboratory investigations, a number of special techniques for operative neurosurgery have been developed and introduced, including those utilizing low temperature states. These have found worldwide application in treating acute cerebral and spinal cord injury and protecting the brain during intracranial surgery.

Dr. White and his research group were the first scientists to successfully isolate the mammalian brain and maintain it in a viable state utilizing an extracorporeal perfusion system. They were also the first in medical history to transplant and hypothermically store the brain of the experimental animal. These researches have documented the immunologically privileged state of the brain as well as the unique protective effect of deep cooling on the nervous system during circulatory arrest. They also documented the degree of reduction of the brain's metabolic activity at various low temperatures.

Born in Duluth, Minnesota on January 21, 1925, Dr. White received his medical education at the University of Minnesota and Harvard University Medical School, from which he was graduated with honors in 1953. In 1962, he was the recipient of a Ph.D. degree from the University of Minnesota. His entire college and postgraduate education was funded by scholarship. His training in both surgery and neurosurgery was undertaken at the Peter Bent Brigham and Children's Hospitals in Boston, completing his surgical neurological education at the Mayo Clinic. He is a member of the foremost research and surgical societies in this country and in Europe: He is a consultant to the Burdenko Institute of Neurosurgery in Moscow, the Polenov Neurosurgical Institute in Saint Petersburg, Russia, and the Ukrainian Research Institute of Neurosurgery in Kiev. He is the only foreign member of both the Russian and Ukrainian Neurosurgical Academies.

Dr. White has served as the Editor or on the Editorial Board of the following journals: Surgical Neurology, Resuscitation, Journal of Trauma and Neurological Research. He is the author of eight hundred publications on clinical neurosurgery, brain research, medical ethics and health care delivery - many translated into foreign languages. He has lectured, consulted and operated extensively in this country as well as in China and Europe, including Russia (36 visits).

Dr. White has served as an officer and president of a number of national and local medical organizations such as the Society of University Neurosurgeons and the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland. He has also served on the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma and numerous Boards of Trustees of hospitals, schools, libraries and civic organizations. He has been an Associate Neurosurgeon at the University, Lakewood, and Veterans Hospitals of Cleveland.

Dr. White has been received in private Papal audiences on numerous occasions to discuss his clinical and experimental work and bioethical issues. He has been the recipient of several Papal Knighthoods and numerous Honorary Doctorate Degrees and Visiting Professorships. In 1994 he was appointed a member of the prestigious Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Recently he was elected to membership in both the Russian and Ukrainian academies of Medical Sciences.

Dr. White has received many honors commemorating his research and clinical achievements. Some of these include being named the 1978 Svien Lecturer at the Mayo Clinic, the second Hemphill Lecturer (the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago), the Ohio Neurosurgeon of the Year in 1983, the 1994 Catholic Man of the Year and the recipient of the Ohio Governor's Award, the Medical Mutual Honor Award, the Alumni Research Award of the Mayo Clinic and the distinguished Membership Award of the Cleveland Academy of Medicine. He has also received the 1997 Humanitarian Award of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. In 1998 he was named distinguished Alumni of the Mayo Foundation. In 1999 he was honored with the golden center award for his accomplishments to medicine. He is a member of the A.O.A. National Honor Society and Boylston Society of Harvard Medical School. His biography appears in the book entitled Modern Neurosurgical Giants. Professor White is biographically listed in many publications such as American Men and Women of Science, Who's Who in the World and Who's Who in America. He is married to the former Patricia Murray of Boston. They have ten children and reside in Shaker Heights, Ohio.