

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

News Bureau Stanford, California 94305

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GRAPHICS: A photo of Dr. Cohn can be obtained by contacting Walter Hangad (whangad@stanford.edu) at (650) 723-7897 or 723-6911.

TRANSPLANT PIONEER ROY B. COHN DIES: STANFORD CAREER SPANS SOME 60 YEARS

STANFORD — Roy Barnett Cohn, MD, emeritus professor of surgery and a world pioneer in transplantation, died peacefully of natural causes on Monday, Jan. 11 at Stanford Hospital. He was 89.

Cohn, a native of Portland, Ore., performed what colleagues described as the first successful kidney transplant procedure on the West Coast in 1960 and is credited with developing the kidney transplantation program at Stanford University Medical Center. A paper that he co-authored in 1964 stands as a landmark in the field of transplantation surgery, said Robert A. Chase, MD, Emile Holman Professor of Surgery emeritus, and chair of Stanford's surgery department at the time the paper was published.

Cohn began his Stanford career in the mid-1920s, receiving his A.B. from the university in 1929. He graduated from Stanford Medical School in 1933, when it was located in San Francisco. After serving as chief resident in general surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Cohn soon returned to Stanford to join the faculty in 1938. He served as a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in 1939-1941, helping to establish a major hospital in Bombay, India.

Following distinguished service overseas in World War II — including U.S. Army medical service at the Dachau Nazi death camp after Allied liberation — he returned to Stanford, where — in addition to his transplant research and clinical activity — he developed a number of innovative surgical techniques. These included the original experimental method of closing defective holes in the heart. He once described himself as “one of the last old-time classical professors of general surgery.” He published extensively throughout his more than 60-year Stanford career and was highly regarded as a teacher and mentor. In 1974 he was honored

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with an endowed professorship, the Walter Clifford Chidester and Elsa Rooney Chidester Professorship in Surgery. He retired in 1989 but remained active for several years as a teacher and consultant to his colleagues.

Cohn is survived by his wife, Ruth Wood Cohn, of Atherton, and his five children, Jeffrey Wood of Seattle, Stephen Wood of Menlo Park, Warren Wood of Santa Barbara, and Marcus Wood and Annalisa Wood of Palo Alto.

A memorial service is pending. Contributions may be sent to the Division of Human Anatomy for the Roy B. Cohn Bioskills Laboratory in Human Anatomy, 1215 Welch Road, Stanford, CA 94305.

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