

*John H. Houghton, MD
and
William J. Houghton, MD Award*



John H. Houghton, MD

John H. Houghton, MD (1907-1968), a general practitioner in Wisconsin Dells, was president of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin (now the Wisconsin Medical Society) in 1965-1966, and was a member of its Council and Commission on Medical Care Plans. He was also a member of the Council on Health of the State of Wisconsin.

Shortly before his death, he endowed an award for deserving medical students who exhibit not only scholastic and scientific excellence but also interest in working together in a medically organized sense to achieve broad goals of public health.

William J. Houghton, MD (1906-1969), a general surgeon in Milwaukee, was a member of the Council of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin from 1961-1969. Just prior to his death, he furthered the endowment established by his brother.



William J. Houghton, MD

In establishing an award for medical students, the Houghton brothers hoped to encourage young men and women to a greater appreciation of the need for physicians to work together through their county, state and national medical organizations and to achieve a well-rounded education, including the socio-economic as well as the scientific.

The award is granted annually to one or more students who, through scholastic excellence, extracurricular achievement, and interest in the activities of medical organization, show high promise of becoming a "complete physician."

Nominations for the award are made by the Deans of the medical schools in Wisconsin. The final selection is made by the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation, and presentation is made at the time of the Society's Annual Meeting. The award consists of a plaque and a cash award.



Wisconsin **Medical Society**
Foundation

Past Houghton Award Recipients

1968 James Renne, Robert Stanhope •
1969 Bruce Buchanan, Daniel Kane •
1970 Stephen Bernsten, Arthur Kaemmer
• 1971 Daniel Leicht, Winston Hollister
• 1972 Eliot Huxley, James Johnson •
1973 Ted Bronson, Michael Krentz •
1974 Jeffrey Davis, Richard Adams •
1975 Kenneth Bussan, Stuart Schneller •
1976 Dale Reid, Joshua Trabulus • 1977
Diana Kruse, Daniel Wartinbee • 1978
Richard Immler, Margaret Chen • 1979
Ann Bartos Merkow, Douglas Jackson •
1980 Laurie Neuman, Jose Luna • 1981
Marc Williams, Doug Gentile • 1982
Robert Homburg, Gabriella Coletti •
1983 Joseph Kreutz, M. Patrice Eiff •
1984 Jeffrey Lehman, Mary Jo Lanska
and Douglas Lanska • 1985 Thomas
Stauss, Nell Davis • 1986 Christopher
Sartori, Mark Harlow • 1987 Sue
Ellen Hamkins, Diane Wolf • 1988
John Keggi, Steven Hoer • 1989 Mark
Weiner, Lucy Runde • 1990 Thomas
Beaver, Christopher Evanich • 1991
Jonathan Berkoff, D. John Bennett •
1992 David Dries, Michelle Agnew •
1993 Donald Anderson, Lisa Winters •
1994 Kevin Wasco, George Rhodes •
1995 Stephen Kolpak, John Schneider
• 1996 Stephanie Wojtowicz, Benjamin
Tobin, Jr. • 1997 Eric Jaeger, Maurice
Peters, Jr. • 1998 Tara Dall, Michael
Bigelow • 1999 Jessica Bartell, Charles
Hu • 2000 Joshua Modder, James
Robinson, III • 2001 Amy Jo Haavisto
Kind and Michelle Seifert, Susan Tsai •
2002 Sharad Rajpal, Amy Lukes • 2003
Jean Larson, Steven Klein • 2004 Kiran
Prasad, Jennifer Knight • 2005 Todd
Eisenberg, Crystal Armstrong • 2006
Kendra Hain, Amy Liepert • 2007
Catherine Cahill, John Vasudevan •
2008 Derrick Siebert, Kyle Swanson •
2009 Nyama Sillah, Matthew Buelow •
2010 Tina Dreger, Charles Czczok •
2011 Ben Durkee, Nicholas Kuehnel

William was born first, but John arrived in less than a year, so they were inseparable, practically twins. When Bill started school a year ahead of John, both boys were so distressed at the separation that their mother kept Bill back a year so they could attend together. They were highly competitive. John was ranked number 1 in state amateur tennis for several years, and Bill number 2. As a doubles team, they were unbeatable at the McKinley Marina courts. Bill and his future bride, Dorothy, were prom king and queen at Marquette University in 1929.

After Marquette Medical School, John took additional training in surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital in Milwaukee and the University of Pennsylvania Postgraduate School of Medicine. He chose to set up practice in Wisconsin Dells, which was a sleepy small town with barely one fudge stand at the time. During World War II, John tried numerous times to enlist, even going as far away as Chicago, but since he was the only doctor in a town, he was declared essential to his community. He did serve as a Lt. Commander in the Navy Reserves for many years. After the war and as the town grew, John's office expanded to 10 physicians and a large staff, and the Dells Clinic served the population of a wide area.

Bill loved to work with his hands and developed that ability in five years of surgical apprenticeship with Fred Stratton, MD. He continued to do a wide range of general surgery as well as general practice for 30 years. He also perfected his knack for sketching with charcoal. He was a Lt. Commander in the Navy and led a medical team on a hospital ship in the South Pacific which, among other duties, treated hundreds of casualties from Saipan, the second bloodiest battle of the Pacific campaign.

Both were what today would be called "family physicians" (Bill also did surgery and obstetrics), which meant they made house calls and took phone calls around the clock. They were devoted to busy families and read the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, too, so their days were long and busy. They were competitive with their colleagues—always striving for excellence in diagnosis and treatment—and not infrequently they were competitive with each other, too. One's nose would be out of joint with the other over some trivial slight, and they wouldn't speak with each other for months. But then they missed each other's familiar grousing and reminiscing so much that they set up a round of golf and dinner at the country club and were back on good terms. John hit the sweet spot on drives. Bill was surgical on chips and putts.

In all these respects, they were each complete physicians, but each not quite complete without the other. It was no accident that they thought of establishing the Houghton Award for one or several medical students who show high promise of becoming "complete physicians" themselves.