

Visiting Professor Program – Named Lectureships



J. Wesley Alexander, M.D., Sc.D.

Dr. J. Wesley Alexander started his long career at the University of Cincinnati as a surgical intern at Cincinnati General Hospital in 1957. Dr. Alexander founded the first transplant program in Cincinnati at what is now University Hospital and led the Transplant Division for more than 30 years. In this leadership role, he completed the hospital's first kidney transplant in 1967 and expanded transplantation services to include both the liver and pancreas.

A true surgeon-scientist, Dr. Alexander received National Institutes of Health research funding nearly 40 consecutive years and made major contributions to the fields of surgical infection, burn injury, transplantation, post-surgical nutrition and bariatric surgery. He has more than 700 publications, primarily focusing on surgical infections, surgical nutrition, transplant surgery and burn surgery. He developed an interest in finding better ways to improve immunologic defenses in patients with burn injuries and critical illness during a two-year stint at the U.S. Army Surgical Research Unit during the Vietnam War. After his Army tenure, he returned to UC and combined his research interests with his clinical skills as a transplant surgeon, focusing on the specific nutritional needs of patients after surgery.

Dr. Alexander's excellence in research earned him numerous accolades, including the Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Texas, the George Rieveschl Jr. Award for Distinguished Scientific Research, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine's Drake Medal, and the W. A. Altemeier Chair of Surgery. Other awards have included the Harvey Stuart Allen Distinguished Service Award of the American Burn Association, the Special Achievement Award of the American Burn Association, Honorary Professor of Surgery of the Third Military Medical College, CPLA at Chongqing, China and Distinguished Service Award of the Cincinnati Surgical Society. In addition, he was elected President of the American Burn Association, the Surgical Infection Society and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. He has served on the Editorial Board of 24 journals, including the Annals of Surgery.

Dr. Alexander became Professor Emeritus of Surgery at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 2008.