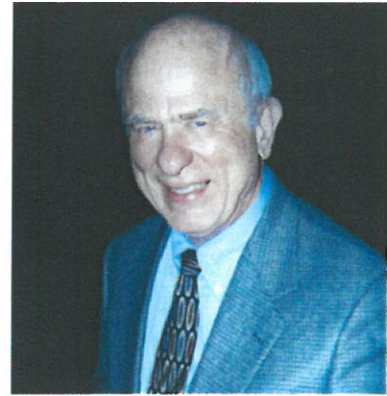




THE DR. RICHARD W. FINCHAM AWARD FOR NEUROLOGY RESIDENTS

Richard Wayne Fincham was born January 10, 1931, in Sioux City, Iowa. The family moved to Ames, Iowa, and Dick benefited from excellent educational experiences as well as participation in team sports. His early upbringing provided him with a solid foundation and steadfast principles that served him well throughout his life and professional career.



Dr. Fincham received his B.S. degree from Iowa State University in 1953, his M.D. degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1956, followed by his residency certificate in neurology, also from The University of Iowa, in 1962.

With the exception of an internship at Denver General and two years in the Army, Dr. Fincham spent his entire 41-year professional career at the University of Iowa College of Medicine—all within the Department of Neurology. A humble man who enjoyed reading and research with a passion, he was also deeply committed to patient care. His specific interest was in the area of treating patients with epilepsy and seizures. He was a staff physician, however, and a true “team player” who gave freely of his time, expertise, and knowledge to colleagues and professionals. Patients were his priority, and he never wavered from that principle. He thrived on solving medical challenges presented by his patients and helped to make a better quality of life for each of them. His patients knew him for his “unique” explanation of medical terms and procedures. He could often be heard asking a patient to “raise that right paw of yours and let’s have a look.”

Dr. Fincham’s other passion was his love of family. Married for 39 years to his wife, Linda, and the father of three children—Nancy, David, and Ben—Dr. Fincham recognized and valued the importance of a close-knit family. As his family can attest, he worked long days—frequently seven days a week—and would have to be pulled away to vacation, during which he would spend most of his time studying a subject he wouldn’t otherwise have time to study (e.g., mathematics, history, astronomical physics).

A man of diverse interests, Dr. Fincham was a lover of classical music and British comedy, a champion for environmental issues, a great and unwavering Hawkeye sports fan, a friend of every dog in his neighborhood, and a true believer that railroads were the answer to society’s transportation dilemma.



Dr. Fincham was also a complex intellectual who had an almost childlike fascination and interest in how things work and in overcoming challenging problems. Whether it was a puzzling medical question or a question posed by one of his children, he would approach each with enthusiasm, dedication, and determination.

With this resident award, Dr. Fincham's family leaves a legacy in his honor that continues his lifetime conviction of care, compassion, and commitment to his professional colleagues and their future patient care.

Congratulations on being selected to receive this distinguished honor!