

Robert J. Demarest (1928-2018)

Bob Demarest, Director Emeritus of the Center for Biocommunications at the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University, passed away on November 19, 2018 at the age of 90.

Bob graduated from Massachusetts General Hospital School of Medical Illustration and completed the W. B. Saunders Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. Bob's four-decade professional career was spent at Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons as Chief Medical Illustrator and as Director of their Center for Biomedical Communication. His records and medical illustrations are now part of the permanent archives of the Columbia Library of the Health Sciences.

He twice served as president of the Association of Medical Illustrators (1967-1968 and 1988-1989), served as chairman of the AMI board, and was selected as a Fellow of the AMI. Among Bob's numerous awards are six Ralph Sweet Awards and the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Medical Illustrators in 1989, and the coveted Ranice W. Crosby Distinguished Achievement Award from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1995. Bob also authored the *History of the Association of Medical Illustrators*, published in 1995 for the AMI's 50th anniversary meeting.

Bob was the ultimate artist-scholar whose consistent goal was to create medical illustrations that were both beautiful and medically and surgically accurate. His work has appeared in medical textbooks, research papers, medical journals, pharmaceutical advertisements, and popular magazines including *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Reader's Digest*, *Life*, *Newsweek* and *Time*.



Bob, Bill Westwood, and Don Biggerstaff



He served as medical illustration editor for the *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine* and the *OBG Management Journal* published by Dowden Health Media. He was author and co-author of several books, one of which has been translated into 5 foreign languages (Demarest and Sciarra. *Birth, Conception & Contraception*. McGraw-Hill, Inc. 1969-1976.) This book, for the general public, was revised and republished in 1995 by Parthenon Publishing. He was also co-author of the *Human Nervous System* by Noback & Demarest, the 7th edition of which was published in 2012 by Springer-Verlag. *Laryngeal Biomechanics* (Harvard University Press), with Raymond Fink as senior author, is a definitive exposition of the functions of the human larynx. It won the Anesthesia Foundation Award for the best book in anesthesiology published for the years 1978 and 1979.

Outside of medicine, Bob's passion was fly-fishing and watercolor painting. After his retirement, his study of Winslow Homer led to a multi-year odyssey, culminating in his authorship of the book, *Traveling with Winslow Homer*. Robert lectured extensively on Homer at museums and organizations across the country. He had numerous one-person exhibitions and his paintings won many awards, including the 2010 New Jersey Watercolor Award and the 2011 Holbien Award. He recently wrote and illustrated his final book, *Anatomy of Figure Drawing: Secrets of a Master Medical Artist*. Bob was also a proud member of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, NJ and believed in the eternal promise of a better world for all people.

Bob spent sixty-eight wonderful years with the love of his life, Alice, affectionately known to Bob as "Sam" - with whom he traveled the world from Costa Rica to the French Alps; from the fishing cabins of Lake Gananoque, Ontario to the seaside fortresses of Havana.

One of the true giants of medical illustration, Bob will be deeply missed by all who knew him.