



ENDOWMENT FUND

## WINCHESTER'S GOLDEN GRADUATES

### David Stump – From Classmate to Class Act!

By **G. Daly Walker**

It is estimated that 1.5 million Americans are afflicted with Lupus Erythematosus, an auto-immune disease in which the body attacks its organs. This dreaded illness is lifelong, debilitating, and often fatal. In 2009, scientists at the biotechnology company, Human Genome Sciences, announced that they had successfully developed Benlysta, a drug that revolutionized the treatment of Lupus and improved thousands of lives. The head of the research and development team was David Stump MD. He graduated from Winchester Community High School in 1968.

David and his younger sister, Mary Alice Stump Bosler, were raised on the family farm just northeast of Winchester in White River Township. His father, Robert, first farmed the land as a tenant then would later purchase the family's own farm nearby.

David says of his time growing up in the country: "It was a pretty typical multifaceted operation - growing corn, soybeans, wheat, and oats as well as raising cattle, hogs, and chickens with dogs and cats running around. It was multigenerational with my grandparents living in a small house across the barnyard. Everyone who was capable worked on it. Early on I mostly gardened with my grandmother then eventually began helping my father in the fields and barns. We pretty much subsisted - did not have much beyond necessities but always had plenty to eat."

David goes on to reflect on the rigors of farm life: "My grandparent's house did not have an indoor toilet and my upstairs bedroom was very cold in the winter. We had one stove for the whole house, and I would leave my next day's clothes next to it on winter nights so they would be warm when I dressed the next day! All that being said, we had a loving family that knew we all had to take care of each other."

When he became of school age, no kindergarten was available for David to attend so his mother, Rachel (who ironically would become a kindergarten teacher), made David take piano lessons to occupy his time.

"I actually learned to read music before I could read words," David said.

David's formal schooling started at McKinley Township and continued at White River Elementary just east of town then after consolidation, at Driver/Winchester Community High School. While he was a student during spring planting and fall harvest, David drove a tractor before and after school. But he still found time for extracurricular activities that included 4-H, band, choir, the golf team, Model UN, and DeMolay as well as Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Of the Winchester teachers who influenced him, David especially remembers Miss Simmons who taught him math, Miss Huber his biology teacher, and Joe Casey in the English department. But it is his father, who in addition to farming, taught math and science at the high school, that David considers his most influential teacher.

"He instilled in me a love of and respect for science which would eventually become one of the key drivers of my professional career."

In addition to his father, David credits physicians from Winchester for influencing his decision to go into medicine. "Dr. Bob Painter's father (Lowell) was our family physician and the role model for my desire to study medicine. You (Daly Walker), Bob and Ed Cockerill were often mentioned to me as positive examples of the ability to grow up in (or in my case near) a small Indiana town and actually be able to dream of pursuing medicine as a career. Fortunately I had a father who valued science and continuously encouraged me, though never at the expense of getting our work done on the farm!"

After graduating as salutatorian in the class of 1968, David headed to Richmond, Indiana to attend Earlham College. There he continued to excel academically and athletically as well. He was member of the team that won the 1969 Men's Volleyball National Championship, earning him a place in the Earlham College Athletic Hall of Fame. While at Earlham, he met his wife Carolyn, a fellow student. David graduated from Earlham *cum laude*, and has served on its board of trustees for ten years. This fall the college will honor him with its Distinguished Service Award.

David obtained his MD from Indiana University in 1976. Following medical school, he completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Iowa. A fellowship in hematology-oncology with emphasis in biochemistry and molecular biology followed. Later, the University of Iowa, Department of Medicine, would bestow on him its Distinguished Achievement Award.

During his hematology fellowship, David became fascinated with the process of blood clot formation. He sought the best laboratory in the world to continue his study of coagulation and found it in Leuven, Belgium's Katholieke University where he was a visiting research associate. His illustrious career as scientist and physician included a stint at the University of Vermont as Associate Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry where he was recognized by the American Heart Association for his laboratory research.

But it became clear to David that genetic engineering was destined to change the way human disease was treated, and he wanted to be part of this scientific revolution. So he left his

established academic career and joined Genentech, one of the first leading biotechnology companies in the world. For a decade, he led the company's program that discovered and developed new medications to treat heart attacks, strokes, and blood clots to the lung. David is proud to be one of the first two people named a Genentech Fellow. From Genentech, he moved to Human Genome Science as Executive Vice President for Research and Development where his work on a cure for Lupus brought him international acclaim and comfort to the many who suffered with the disease.

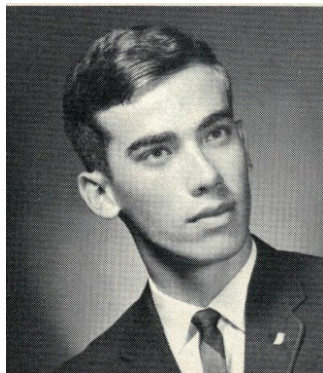
Approximately 60 scientific publications bear David's name as author. He is a member of numerous medical associations and serves on the board of directors of four biopharmaceutical companies.

In 2012, David and Carolyn retired in his wife's "dream home," a beautiful stone country house overlooking the Potomac River in Maryland. Sadly, Carolyn died there two years later. David remains connected to the Hoosier state with visits to the family farm in Randolph County and to his condominium in downtown Indianapolis near his daughter, Shana, a lawyer who teaches at IUPUI, and her family, especially his two granddaughters.

While David was highly educated and trained at fine institutions, he credits growing up on the family farm in Randolph County for shaping his life and career more than anything else.

"The farm was one of those places where one can learn some important generalizable life lessons," David says. "Those that easily come to mind are the importance of hard work, individual responsibility, accountability, respect for others and their contributions to shared goals, and perseverance when the headwinds of hardship seem to be blowing against you. Lastly I would mention a deep appreciation for the wonderful complexity of the natural world."

David Stump in 1968



Dr. David Stump today



