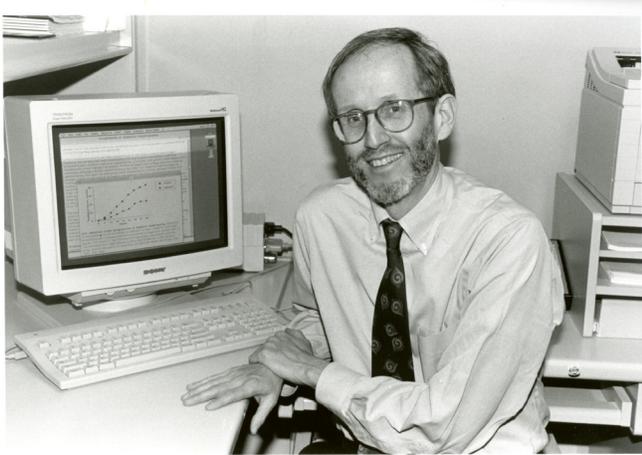




THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Harvard University

Burton D. Rose



Photograph courtesy of the Harvard Medical Library in the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine

Burton (Bud) Rose, one of the world's most influential medical educators and innovators and Professor of Medicine at HMS, died on April 24, 2020.

Bud graduated from Princeton University and New York University School of Medicine. He did a medical internship at the University of Chicago, followed by residency at Mount Sinai, New York, and a fellowship in nephrology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. After spending two years in the US Navy, he joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts, followed by the Brigham and Women's Hospital, and then the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

National and international recognition came as a result his first textbook, *Clinical Physiology of Acid-Base and Electrolyte Disorders*. This book became a nephrology "bible" for students, house staff, fellows, and practicing physicians. Medical students at Harvard (and elsewhere) carried this book around as their principal resource in this area. Bud reduced this complex and daunting area of nephrology to concepts which were understandable to learners of all levels. Each edition was updated meticulously. Four editions have been published and translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Chinese. He then wrote the companion book *Pathophysiology of Renal Disease* and also co-authored *Renal Pathophysiology: the Essentials*.

30 years ago, Bud was determined to find a better way to rapidly update these textbooks. Using a computer as a platform for learning (quite uncommon at the time), Bud created the computer-based resource *UpToDate*, now the most widely used and universally respected educational resource for physicians around the world. In creating and editing *UpToDate*, Bud insisted that this electronic text use the developing capabilities of personal computers to maximal advantage.

Most importantly, Bud always chose the very best experts to write about each field, and maintained a superb staff of physician editors to assure that the wisdom of his experts was accessible to his readership. Bud also insisted that his physician editors and experts review each field constantly, so that the topics in *UpToDate* were constantly bringing forward the most current and accurate information.

*In tribute to their dedicated efforts to science and medicine, deceased members of the Harvard Faculty of Medicine (those at the rank of full or emeritus professor) receive a review of their life and contributions with a complete reflection, a **Memorial Minute**.*

Armed with an engaging smile and the power of persuasion, Bud convinced leaders in the gamut of medical specialties to join him to help transform *UpToDate in Nephrology and Hypertension* to *UpToDate in Medicine*. This effort then branched out into other fields and transformed into simply *UpToDate*. The success of the program is based on Rose's inimitable formula: content should be written by experts in their fields who can help translate evidence-based available data into understandable lessons that can be applied to answer questions that arise in the care of real patients. The formula worked. *UpToDate* now boasts nearly 2 million users in almost 200 countries. It is available on hospital networks and at the point of care on portable devices. It is even enabled for use during secure recertification examinations.

Meanwhile, Rose cultivated an ever-growing following of nephrologists by speaking at grand rounds and Continuing Medical Education courses across the country. He developed his own nephrology update course in Boston, attracting thousands of nephrologists from around the globe. On site, Rose treated participants like family, always ready to recommend a restaurant or listen to a complex case. From faculty speaking at his course, he had exacting standards and insisted on lectures of the highest quality. Speakers not up to his standards were not invited back.

Though *UpToDate* consumed most of his time in recent years, Bud continued to attend on the nephrology consult services at Beth Israel Deaconess. He continued to teach nephrology fellows, meeting with them weekly to hear cases and teach them about acid-base and electrolyte management.

Recognition as a master teacher who established what education could and should be at every level came in his promotion to Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. National acknowledgement for his work in educating kidney specialists from around the world came when he was honored with the Robert G. Narins Award by the American Society of Nephrology, the highest award given by the discipline for education in nephrology.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin R. Pollak, MD, *Chairperson*

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