

Acceptance of the Howland Award

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Joe—thank you so very much for your kind and much too generous remarks. While listening to your presentation about my jaundiced career, I tried to control my emotions by heeding the advice of our former Dean, Lew Thomas, who said “A little flattery won’t hurt you, if you don’t inhale.”

It is difficult to find the words to adequately express my great appreciation for the honor that the American Pediatric Society has bestowed on me. It is a special privilege to have my name added to the distinguished list of Howland Awardees—a list that begins with Dr. Edwards Park in 1952 and includes my former Chief, Emmett Holt, in 1966, my cousin, Albert Sabin, in 1974, and my friend and colleague, Henry Kempe, last year—1980.

In accepting this Award, I wish to acknowledge my gratitude to all those who made it possible:

To my parents who not only provided me with the genes that permitted me to survive for 3 score and 10 years, but who also had the good judgment to emigrate to the United States at the turn of this century, thereby enabling me to be born in a country that provided me with the freedom and opportunity to pursue an exciting career.

To my wife Sylvia for 41.2 years of love and devoted support and to Dick and Carol for their generous contribution of multiple serum specimens during their infancy, childhood, and adolescence—specimens that were obtained without informed consent.

To my cousin, Albert Sabin, who introduced me to Robert Ward, my colleague, friend, and scientific brother for more than 3 decades and the person most responsible for guiding me toward a career in academic medicine. Our studies on the natural history and prevention of viral hepatitis were carried out in collaboration with the late Bob Ward and the late Joan Giles whose outstanding contributions were responsible for the success of these trials.

I shall never forget Bob Ward’s insistence that our book *Infectious Diseases of Children* appear as “Krugman and Ward” in spite of my protests that it should be “Ward and Krugman,” an example of his generosity and self-effacement because he wanted my academic standing enhanced rather than his own.

To my former chief, L. Emmett Holt, Jr., who came to Bellevue and New York University from Johns Hopkins where he had worked for 22 years under John Howland and Edwards A. Park. Emmett was a scholar of impressive depth, a teacher who taught by gentle cultivation, an advisor who encouraged as well as guided, an investigator who added mightily to the store of medical knowledge, a physician concerned about the welfare of children round the world, and a loyal and devoted friend. It was this environment, characterized by intensive exposure to Robert Ward and Emmett Holt, that provided the nutrition for my academic growth and development.

To Joe Dancis for 35 years of continuous friendship and support, beginning with our arrival on the Bellevue Pediatric House

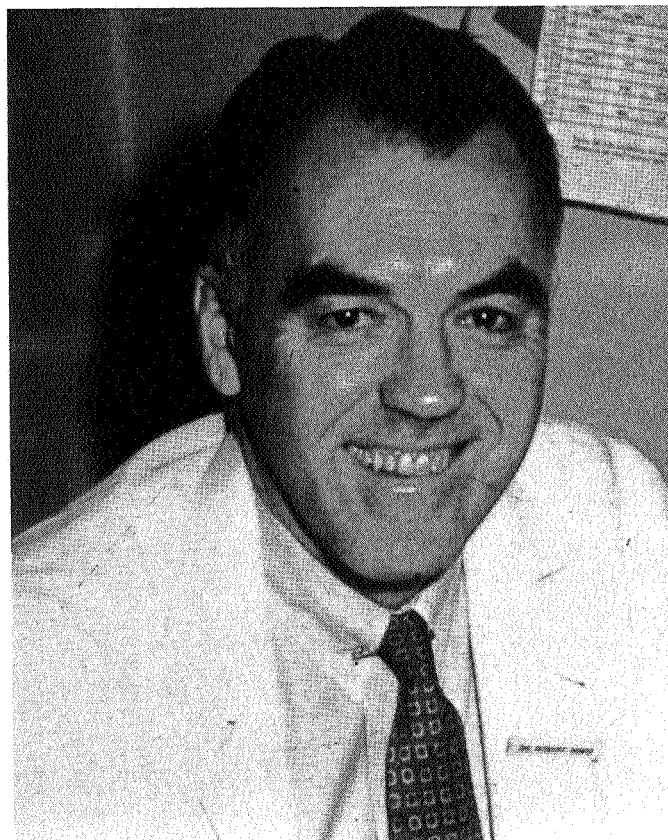


Fig. 1. Dr. Robert Ward at New York University and Bellevue Hospital in 1956.

Staff in 1946 after our return from the Second World War, extending through the Holt era, through my tenure as Chairman from 1960 to 1974, and followed by his chairmanship during the past 7 years.

To the many members of my Bellevue—N.Y.U. pediatric family, past and present, too numerous to name, and to Sam Katz and many infectious disease colleagues for their loyalty, support, encouragement, cooperation, and affection.

In concluding my acceptance of the 30th Howland Award and Medal I wish to pay a special tribute to the memory of Robert Ward (Fig. 1), a colleague who had exceptional human qualities, a friend who gave his friendship without limit—to Bob I shall always be grateful for his profound effect on my academic career, culminating in this memorable occasion this afternoon.