This is an incredibly exciting time in the department of Anesthesiology here at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Since my arrival here in November of 2006, I have had the distinct pleasure of working with the excellent faculty in this department on educational, research, and clinical missions. Amongst those faculty, it has been my distinct pleasure to meet and work with Dr. William H. “Bill” Hadnott.

As we look to the future of The Department of Anesthesiology we must also look to the past and honor those that have brought this department along from its early inception to where it is today. No one is more deserving of that honor than Dr. Hadnott. As the first graduate of our residency program, that began in 1967, Dr. Hadnott has been with the department from the very beginning, and he has maintained his affiliation with this department over the last 40 years, always leading in his quiet, example-setting way. He has truly seen it all and done it all. Many of those who trained under Dr. Hadnott have said that his actions always spoke louder than his words.

It is my personal honor to serve as the chairman of this department and to carry on the legacy that Dr. Hadnott is such an important part of. We look forward to your partnership in passing on the values that Dr. Hadnott so boldly impressed upon everyone he touched and continues to touch in our Department, our School, San Antonio, and the entire State of Texas.

Thank you Bill for your willingness to serve others and your strong, consistent leadership to this department over the last four decades.

Respectfully,

J. Jeffrey Andrews, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
UTHSCSA, Department of Anesthesiology

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The year was 1949 when a young man by the name of William H. Hadnott II entered Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. It was the year that his father passed away, and only four years after his mother had died. 1949 was also the year that The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston accepted its first African-American student, and Hadnott had been waiting for this opportunity. In 1953, Hadnott was accepted and allowed through the doors of that medical school. In an interview with his alma mater’s magazine in 2001, Dr. Hadnott stated, “Being a doctor had been a sort of a dream, very vague. Until then, going to medical school had been out of the question for a poor black boy growing up in Beaumont.” He began his medical school education living in a dormitory by himself, still segregated by the Jim Crow laws. With both of his parents being teachers, he was told to directly his life’s path with formal education. Not only did he do this for himself, but he served as a pioneer to help erase the color boundaries for innumerable minority students to follow his lead.

Indeed William H. Hadnott, II M.D. had become a physician, but he is an extraordinary human being that has dedicated his life to medicine and deserves to be recognized in every way possible. His distinguished career began with a private practice in Bay City in 1958. He built and maintained this successful practice for nine years before coming to San Antonio and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (also known at UTHSCSA). He was enrolled in the first anesthesiology residency class in 1967. Several years later, he was the first and only resident to proudly graduate from that fledgling class. Later, he received an academic appointment in June of 1969. For the next twenty years, he helped train each successive residency class while modeling professionalism, compassion, and steadiness in all operating room occurrences. In 1981, Dr. Hadnott was promoted to Clinical Professor status. As of 2007, Dr. Hadnott formally retired from UTHSCSA, but his positive impact on friends, trainees, and colleagues still remains.

In addition to his lengthy and rewarding tenured thirty-eight year career at UTHSCSA, there were numerous other distinguishing moments. He had a dynamic private practice career in San Antonio. He served as chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at Baptist Health Systems as well as Chief of Anesthesiology at Nix Medical Center. He is a fellow of the American College of Anesthesiologists and a diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology. He has been a member of the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists since 1970, and he has influenced Texas medicine throughout his lifetime.

In fact, in 1997 the Texas House of Representatives of the 75th Texas Legislature passed House Resolution No. 417, which served as official notice that Dr. Hadnott’s vision and leadership were due special praise and recognition. Moreover, Dr. Hadnott was awarded the prestigious Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus Award at UTMB in June 2005.

His pioneer spirit was sparked at a young age, compliments of loving and supportive parents. His driving work ethic was given the green light when the segregation environment started to crumble. Following his anesthesia residency training at UTHSCSA, his memorable tenure has directly benefited countless anesthesiologists practicing in the state of Texas and beyond. If the true measure of a human being is gauged by what they contribute to the world around them, then Dr. Hadnott is priceless. He has been present within the Department of Anesthesiology at UTHSCSA since its inception. His strong compass has helped to guide the course of the Department. He has created a trajectory for a bright future for all anesthesiology residents at UTHSCSA for years to come. It is in this spirit of celebration that a permanent endowment is being established at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in the name of Dr. William H. Hadnott II. The purpose of this endowment is to create a chair in the Department of Anesthesiology to honor Dr. Hadnott’s excellence in and dedication to resident education, patient care and innovative contributions to the field of anesthesiology. The endowed chair will support future faculty members who, in some fashion, embody qualities found within Dr. Hadnott.

Please join the University’s effort by making a tax-deductible contribution toward the endowment that will be an eternal support and reminder of the true legacy of Dr. William H. Hadnott II.