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Via Email

February 20, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the death of Dr. Bobby R. Alford. Dr. Alford passed away on February 20, 2018 succumbing to pneumonia following a hip fracture suffered in late January.

Dr. Alford was a Distinguished Service Professor at Baylor College of Medicine. He served as the Executive Vice President and Dean of Medicine from 1988-2004, and as Chancellor from 2004 to 2010. He was Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and held the Olga Keith Wiess Chair in Otorhinolaryngology from 1981 to 2010 when he stepped down as department chairman. He served as Chairman of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery from 1967 to 2010. In January 1996, the Baylor Board of Trustees named the Department in his honor. A specialist in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Dr. Alford served on the staff of several hospitals in the Houston area: The Methodist Hospital (TMH), Ben Taub General Hospital (BTGH), St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital (SLEH), Texas Children’s Hospital (TCH), the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), and The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) and at one time was the chief of the ENT service at each of these hospitals. He authored more than 140 scientific papers. In 1991, he received the Good Housekeeping Award as one of the “Top 400 Best Doctors in America,” and in 1999 he received the Association of Operating Room Nurses of Greater Houston Distinguished Surgeon Award. He has served on the Advisory Board of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Alford has also served as a member of the National Advisory Council of the National Institute for Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, the National Advisory Council of The National Institute for Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and the Advisory Council of the Lunar and Planetary Institute. In addition, he has served on the NASA Headquarters National Advisory Council. Other NASA

participation has included the select White House “Blue Ribbon” Advisory Committee for the Redesign of the Space Station, The Aerospace Medicine Advisory Committee (Chairman), The Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications Committee (Chairman), and the Life Sciences Advisory Committee. In addition, he served on the NASA Space and Earth Sciences Advisory Committee and The Task Force on the Scientific Uses of the Space Station. Dr. Alford held the Friedkin Chair for Sensory System Integration and Space Medicine from 2000-2011. Dr. Alford served as Consultant to the Surgeon Generals of the United States Army and the United States Navy. He served as Chief Editor of the Archives of Otolaryngology publication for ten years. Dr. Alford was a member of the Board of Directors of the Alkek Foundation. He also served as Medical Advisor for the John S. Dunn Research Foundation, the Diana Helis Henry Medical Research Foundation and the Adrienne Helis Malvin Medical Research Foundation.

Dr. Alford received the M.D. with honor from Baylor University College of Medicine in 1956. As a medical student he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. After completion of a residency in Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, he served as a Fellow in Otology at the University of Texas Medical Branch and as a Special NIH Fellow at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and became certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology in 1962. In 1962, he accepted a faculty position at Baylor College of Medicine and in 1967 was named professor and chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Alford was instrumental in developing the concept of the unique Neurosensory Center of The Methodist Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine and more specifically the Institute for Head and Neck Surgery of that Center which he brought to fruition in 1978 with the opening of the Neurosensory Center of Houston.

Dr. Alford was a Fellow and former President of the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery, a former President and Executive Vice President of the American Board of Otolaryngology, a Fellow and former member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons, and a former President of the American Council of Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery. He played a pivotal role in the merging of AAO and ACO into what became the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, the organization as we know it today. He has received The Outstanding Alumnus Award from Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Alford is a member of The Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He was awarded the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal in 1995, and was the recipient of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Jeffries Aerospace Medicine and Life

Sciences Research Award for 2003. In 2010, he received the newly established NSBRI Pioneer Award in recognition of his efforts and accomplishments in blazing new trails on behalf of the Institute, its partnership with NASA, and the space biomedical community at large. Dr. Alford was the initial Chairman of the Board and the CEO of the NASA-funded National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI) and guided the organization's growth and development until his retirement.

Dr. Alford's most enduring legacy may be the enrichment of the lives of countless patients he treated over the years and the innumerable students, residents, and fellows he trained over 50 years. He was the consummate physician and surgeon in the care of patients and educated innumerable students and trained over 300 residents and faculty who went on to be leaders in otolaryngology and organized medicine. These include 15 department chairs, ten division or section heads and four medical school deans. These graduates have gone on to serve as President of AAO-HNS, one past president of the Texas Medical Association, and one President and CEO of a major medical school. His true legacy will live on in the lives of those inspired by his dedication and commitment to patients, research, education, and the pursuit of excellence.

Dr. Alford will be remembered as a leader, mentor, physician, scientist, educator, colleague and friend who was influential during his more than 50 years at Baylor. A website <https://www.bcm.edu/remembering-bobby-alford> with details about his many contributions to Baylor and to academic medicine. The website also provides a link where you may share your condolences with Dr. Alford's family. Funeral services are pending.

In lieu of flowers, the Alford family has requested that donations be made to the Alford-Albritton Endowment fund at Baylor College of Medicine which funds education and research. Donations may be made online at <https://connect.bcm.edu/SSLPage.aspx?pid=456>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Donovan', written in a cursive style.

Donald. T. Donovan, MD