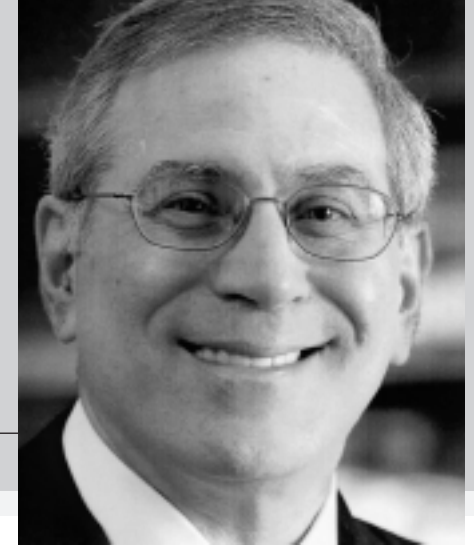




## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

### Eric N. Prystowsky '69



#### To Dr. Eric Prystowsky for achieving international prominence in teaching, research, and patient care in cardiac electrophysiology.

As Interfraternity Council president in the late 1960s, Eric Prystowsky once stood on the steps of Old Main calming his fellow students. “A group of students was occupying Old Main and another group of students with differing views was coming to Old Main to remove the first group,” he said. “The dean called me and asked me to do something.”

Prystowsky credits learning a lot about leadership—appreciating different viewpoints and the art of compromise—during his term as IFC president. And he continues to lead, now as one of the foremost cardiac electrophysiologists in the world.

Prystowsky likens his specialty to being “an electrician of the heart,” diagnosing and treating heart rhythm disorders with pacemakers, implantable defibrillators, and intracardiac catheter-based energy delivery. Since 1988, he’s been director of the Clinical Electrophysiology Lab at St. Vincent Hospital and director of

clinical electrophysiology with The Care Group, a statewide network of cardiologists and primary care physicians headquartered in Indianapolis.

Prystowsky’s physician parents inspired him to pursue a career in medicine where he could make a difference in people’s lives.

Prystowsky decided on Penn State after visiting his older brother, who was a student. “As an out-of-state student it was tough getting in then but it was my first choice,” he said. After earning a bachelor’s degree in microbiology in 1969, Prystowsky entered Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, graduating near the top of his class in 1973. After his internal medicine residency at Mount Sinai Hospital, Prystowsky trained in cardiology and clinical electrophysiology at Duke University Medical Center.

Prystowsky’s academic career included appointments as associate professor of medicine and director of the Clinical Electrophysiology Lab at Indiana University School of Medicine (1979–86) and professor of medicine and director of clinical electrophysiology at Duke University Medical Center (1986–88). He

is co-author of two textbooks and has authored more than 640 scientific manuscripts and abstracts on cardiac arrhythmias. Prystowsky is on the editorial board of numerous journals and is editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology*, the leading journal on cardiac arrhythmias. He has also served in senior leadership positions for the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, and is past president of the Heart Rhythm Society.

Among the scores of electrophysiologists who have trained under Prystowsky, many are currently chiefs of cardiology in the U.S. and abroad, including Penn State. “Of everything I do, I’m most passionate about teaching,” Prystowsky said. “I hope people remember me as a good doctor and a good teacher.”

Much recognized for his work, Prystowsky received Mount Sinai’s Saul Horowitz Memorial Award for significant achievements since medical school graduation in 1981, the Distinguished Teacher Award from the Heart Rhythm Society, the Henry I. Russek Lectureship Award from the American College of Cardiology, and a Lifetime Achievement

Award from the University of California, San Francisco, all in 2002. In addition, Prystowsky’s peers have named him to The Best Doctors in America since its inception in 1992.

At Penn State, Prystowsky was named Outstanding Senior in 1969 and inducted into Androcles, Skull and Bones, and Lion’s Paw. He is a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association.

Prystowsky met his wife, Bonnie, when friends set them up on a date at the HUB in 1966. They have two grown sons, David and Daniel, and live in Carmel, Ind.

