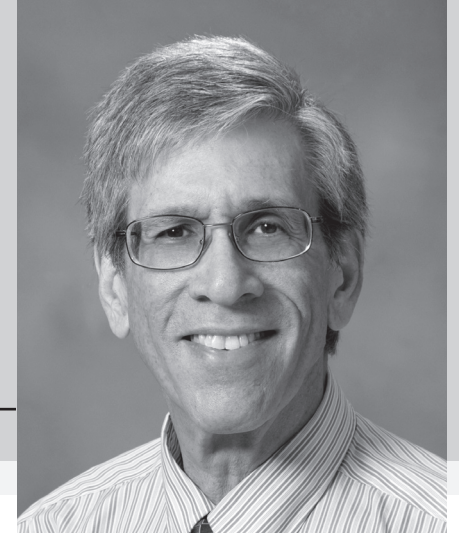




DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Alan D. Bedrick '74, '78g



To Alan D. Bedrick for his dedicated commitment to students at the Penn State Hershey College of Medicine and contributions to pediatric medical education and perinatal public health.

As a first-year pediatric resident, Alan Bedrick did a rotation in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), where machines and monitors surrounded premature babies weighing less than two pounds. “The NICU was terrifying to me,” he recalled. However, the more time he spent in the NICU, where parents worry and watch and hope hour by hour, the more he realized that the medical and nursing staff doesn’t just take care of babies—they take care of entire families. That’s when he decided to pursue a career in neonatology.

Bedrick earned his bachelor’s degree in biology from Penn State and his doctoral degree at the Penn State Hershey College of Medicine. He completed his pediatric residency at the University of Arizona and a fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine at the State University of New York. His scholarly interests have focused on neonatal ethics, public health aspects of perinatal and neonatal health-care delivery, and experimental models of neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis. He has

served as a member of the editorial board and associate editor of the *American Journal of Diseases of Children*. Penn State honored him with the College of Medicine Alumni Fellow Award in 1993.

Since 2007, Bedrick has been a professor of pediatrics and chief of neonatology and developmental biology as well as the Arizona Elks Endowed Chair in Neonatology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine Department of Pediatrics in Tucson. Prior to that, he was a member of the teaching faculties at the Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland schools of medicine. He has received numerous teaching commendations and awards, and was honored with a Special Achievement Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2006.

“Caring for critically ill babies is challenging. There’s a certain excitement being present for a high-risk delivery, and knowing that a baby, often premature, is going to be born and need some help,” he said. Bedrick’s philosophy of care for babies in the NICU is “family-centered.” “Parents do not come in to visit their babies,” he noted. “We help them parent their babies. They’re very important members of our health care team.”

Bedrick has spent his entire career teaching medical students and pediatric residents and supports, nurtures, and empowers today’s new physicians to care for their patients. As a medical student at Hershey, he secured a March of Dimes Research Grant that helped ease his medical school financial burden. His faculty mentors—physicians Roger Ladda, Ian Zagon, and Cheston Berlin—made a lasting impression on his career. Later, he and his wife, Sally '75, founded the Bedrick Family Medical Student Research Program Award as a way to give back to Penn State and help medical students reduce their educational debt.

From 1996 to 2008, Bedrick served on the College of Medicine Alumni Society Board of Directors, including a term as president. He was able to spend time with Hershey medical students, and successfully developed programs to engage College of Medicine alumni with Penn State, noting that for many physicians, their emotional link to their medical school is not as strong as to their undergraduate alma mater. He received the Cheston M. Berlin Service Award for outstanding service to the College of Medicine Alumni Society.

Volunteerism has been a hallmark of Bedrick’s career, including his service to

the March of Dimes in both Baltimore and Tucson, and currently as a member of the board of directors of the Arizona Perinatal Trust.

In 2006, Bedrick became a member of the Penn State Alumni Association’s Alumni Council, and has subsequently been re-elected twice by members of the Alumni Association. He currently serves as the Communications Committee co-chair. The Council named him its Volunteer of the Year in 2007.

The Bedricks are Penn State Alumni Association life members and have two children, Laura, and Aaron '09.

