

Mayo Clinic Proceedings Legacy-June 2014

Dr Robert G. Siekert, Editor-in-Chief, 1982-1986



Dr Siekert was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 23, 1924. As Editor-in-Chief for the *Proceedings*, he played a seminal role in determining the journal's image, stature, and focus.^{1,2}

Dr Siekert obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, and furthered his studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, receiving his BS in 1943, and his MD in 1947. He completed his internship at New York Hospital from 1947-1948 and became an instructor at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia during the same period. He completed his residency there as well, studying neurology. Dr Siekert joined Mayo Graduate School of Medical Education in 1950, and after an interruption for military service in the Navy, he returned to Mayo in 1952, when he became a consultant in Neurology.^{1,2}

Great changes for the *Proceedings* occurred under Dr Siekert's leadership, including creating an autonomous identity for the journal and staff; increasing the external scope of the

journal to combat the colloquial and pejorative image of an in-house, throwaway publication; increasing advertising to enhance the business side of the journal; and beginning the never-ending battle to recruit the best and brightest authors.² Prior to his leadership, the journal was part of the Section of Scientific Publications at Mayo Clinic. In his role as head of this section, simultaneous with his editorship at the *Proceedings*, he recognized the need for a separate, dedicated staff for the journal. In his tenure, the number of extramural reviewers was increased from 73 to 174, and a consistent professional style was refined.²

Dr Siekert was an outstanding physician and leader at Mayo Clinic and the *Proceedings*. He received many awards and also has an award for young investigators in his name at the Stroke Council.³ Without his vision, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* would not be what it is today. Sadly, we learned that Dr Siekert passed away on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. He was 89 years old.

References

1. Biographical data used by permission of the Mayo Clinic Historical Unit, Rochester, Minnesota.
2. Reflections from Past Editors. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2000;75:340-343. <http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/0025-6196/PIIS0025619611640275.pdf>. Accessed April 22, 2013.
3. Robert G. Siekert, M.D. Emmeritus Professor, Neurology, College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic. *Mayo Alumni Magazine*, Winter 2012/2013. <http://www.mayo.edu/mayo-edu-docs/alumni-documents/mc4409-1212.pdf>. Accessed October 17, 2013.