

Ronald P. Bangasser, M.D.

Medical Student Scholarship



Ronald Paul Bangasser, M.D.

This scholarship honors Ronald P. Bangasser, M.D., a physician known locally and nationally for his compassion for patients and his zeal to improve the quality of health care, who passed away on May 2, 2007, after a valiant struggle with cancer. He was a friend, an advisor and mentor to students with a strong desire to assist them in their education and inspire in them the value of organized medicine. Ron welcomed medical students into his practice for externships in family practice and wound care and he was active in job shadowing and mentoring of medical school applicants. He freely gave his frequent flyer miles so they could attend CMA Legislative Day in Sacramento and AMA meetings. Ron's concern for the development of future doctors was further demonstrated by his support of the local medical schools. It is because of his love for medicine and his faith in and encouragement of medical students as the future of medicine that this scholarship was established.

A native of Freeport, Illinois, Dr. Bangasser received his medical degree from Chicago Medical School and received special training in hyperbaric oxygen research and undersea diving, another of his great passions. He completed his family practice residency at the San Bernardino County Medical Center, in San Bernardino, California. Since 1975, he was a family practitioner with Beaver Medical Group in Redlands, serving as both Medical Director and Director of External Affairs. He specialized in the management of chronic complicated wounds and founded the nationally recognized Paul F. Bangasser Wound Care Center (dedicated to Ron's father in 2005) at Redlands Community Hospital in 1986.

Ron Bangasser was active in state and national medical societies for nearly 30 years. He was an effective leader as speaker and vice speaker of the California Medical Association and as a board member of CMA's Board of Trustees and the Institute for Medical Quality. He served energetically as president of both the California Medical Association and the San Bernardino County Medical Society and in multiple American Medical Association leadership roles, including chair of the California Delegation to the AMA, the Council for Medical Services, the AMA Foundation, and the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement.

Dr. Bangasser was also a prime force behind the Foundation for Medical Care and the Foundation movement in California. The recipient of many professional leadership and community awards, he was recognized nationally for his forward thinking and efforts relating to quality assurance and performance measurement. He has also been recognized for his contributions to diving, diving medicine and diving physiology.

A loving human, a devoted father and husband, Ron was a prime example of what a physician should be. He served his patients and colleagues through his advocacy and commitment to organized medicine. His passion for medicine and his patients fueled his unparalleled work to help ensure that health care reform truly helped the patients. His infectious energy and enthusiasm for quality health care for all, his devotion to family, and his love of the ocean will continue through all the lives he touched.