

Legends and Leaders

The siting and planning process of the Health Science Center attracted a number of visionary and innovative individuals, whose ideas and goals sometimes were far ahead of their time. In many cases, their innovations have become the standard for administration, or practice. In others, it took decades before the plans they hoped implement were adopted by a majority of medical, nursing, and other health professional schools.



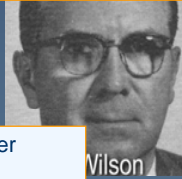
Dr. Samuel Martin, first Chair of Medicine, became the Provost of the Health Center, working closely with Dorothy Smith and the other founders to implement their collective vision.



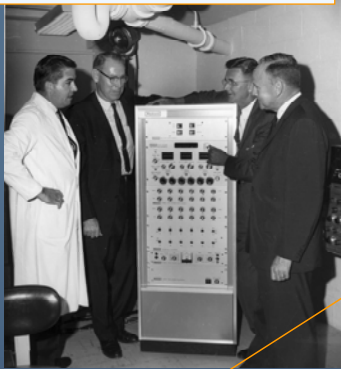
Florida legislators Emory "Red" Cross, William Shands and Ralph Turlington with George Harrell (in earth mover) and UF President John Allen at the ground breaking ceremony for the Medical Sciences Building in 1954. Cross, Turlington and Shands were instrumental in bringing the Health Center to UF.



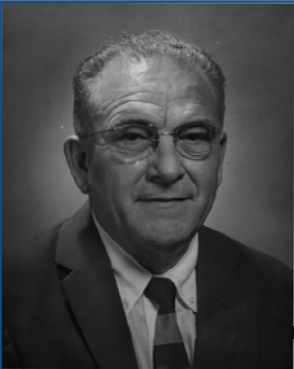
T.Z. Cason created the short course, that ran for decades, later becoming known as Continuing Medical Education. He also struggled to integrate the short course at a time when Florida was a segregated state.



George T. Harrell, Jr. joined the Medical Center Study as a consultant, and his planning skills, attention to detail, vision and knowledge of medicine resulted in his being offered the position as founding Dean of the College of Medicine. He later went on to found the medical school at Penn State- the only person to found two colleges of medicine.



Emanuel Suter, the first Chair of Microbiology, became the Second Dean of Medicine after Dr. Harrell left for Hershey.



Russell Poor, PhD came from Oak Ridge to head the Medical Center Study. He later became the first provost of the Health Science Center.

Dorothy Smith, the founding Dean of the College of Nursing worked closely with the other founders, creating a curriculum that was interdisciplinary and that focused on training nurses who had scientifically based critical thinking skills. She created a parallel nursing chart, argued for graduate research degrees in nursing and a number of other extremely innovative approaches to training nurses.



Dr. Thomas Maren, first Chair of Pharmacology, was a research scientist with a background in literature. His research resulted in the development of a topical glaucoma treatment. His belief that familiarity with literature would make physicians better doctors resulted in the creation of the Maren Reading Room for medical students that has become the College of Medicine center for medical humanities.

