

Dr. Richard Fratianne, M.D.
Medicine



At CWRU's White Coat Ceremony Dr. Fratianne said, "Even after you pass the boards, you never will finish becoming a doctor.

Your education will go on for the rest of your life." This ceremony, during which students recite the Hippocratic Oath for the first time and receive white coats to remind them of its words, has become a rite of passage for students at many medical schools across the country.

The message on August 7, 2001 had a special meaning for Dr. Fratianne, a 1958 alumnus who founded and directed the burn unit at Cleveland's MetroHealth Medical Center. Less than two months after a 1999 White Coat Ceremony, Dr. Fratianne collapsed at work.

After extensive testing, immediate surgery was scheduled and doctors told Dr. Fratianne that he would emerge partially blind and paralyzed. Fortunately, the tumor turned out to be an abscess, and after months of rehabilitation he returned to work in January

2000. Going through this experience led Dr. Fratianne to do a critical analysis of his life. "When you are given a reprieve like this, it makes everything even more poignant," he said.

Dr. Fratianne told students that year, "When patients are ill, they have a reaction of the mind, body, and spirit and, therefore, all must be attended to."

A June 1950 graduate of Collinwood, Dr. Richard B. Fratianne received his undergraduate degree from Western Reserve University in 1954 and his doctorate in medicine from Western Reserve University School of Medicine in 1958. He was appointed clinical instructor in surgery in 1964 and currently holds a professorship in surgery. He helped develop and was appointed director of the Comprehensive Burn Care Center at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio in 1969. He has held that position for the past 32 years. He stepped down as director on June 30, 2001, but he remains actively involved in patient care, teaching, and research.

He has published 62 articles and 74 abstracts in peer reviewed journals. He has been an active member of the American Burn Association since 1969 and served as its vice-president in 1999. He is one of a few burn center directors who has devoted his entire career to one medical institution and its surrounding region.

Dr. Fratianne and his wife, Mary, have five children and nine grandchildren. They reside in Lyndhurst, Ohio.