

dear residents

On the 10th Anniversary of the Seldin Symposium

March 30, 2025

Dear Residents,

The idea of the **Seldin Symposium** was the brainchild of the 2015-16 Chief Residents - [Ariel Aday](#), [Steven Philips](#) and [Andy Laccetti](#).



Inaugural Seldin Symposium 2016 - From Left to Right: Andy Laccetti, Dr. Seldin, Ariel Aday and Steven Philips

Dr. Seldin was truly delighted with this initiative. He reviewed each poster in detail. Presenters were nervous when he asked his usual searching questions. Privately, he would tell me later that that the

residents were “simply marvelous.” He would have been ecstatic this year, especially with the record number of posters presented and the significant expansion of the event.

Dr. Seldin died on April 25, 2018, at the age of 97. None of the current residents would have ever met him – but you know of him and appreciate how fundamental he has been to UT Southwestern. I first met Dr. Seldin in 1989, at morning report in Houston, when I was a second-year resident, and he was a visiting professor. I remember presenting my overnight admissions to him. His questions were incisive, and his critical comments were spot on. Fast forward to October 1, 2012 – my first day as program director for IM, I was paid a visit by Dr. Seldin. He briefed me on the history of the residency program. He was the first program director (chairs were often also program directors), followed by Dr. Foster, Dr. Hillis, and my immediate predecessor Dr. Croft. Unlike those who came before me, I was relatively unknown to him, and I understood his need to check me out. He explained that my role would be critical in maintaining the high standards and strong reputation of the program. As he left, his parting words were, “Professor Kazi, don’t ruin my program.”

As Chair Emeritus of Medicine, much of Dr. Seldin’s focus was on resident education. On two Tuesdays a month, he moderated Intern Chart Conference. Interns presented a patient to him, morning report style. He asked questions, grilled others while he sketched pathophysiology on the blackboard. When Parkland moved across the street, it was going to prove to be too far a walk for Dr. Seldin. He thought it was time to step away from this conference. The Chief Residents and I hatched a plan to get him there and back safely on Tuesdays. I would drive him, and a Chief Resident would meet him in the lobby. I would return to bring him back. These short drives over the next few years is when I really got to know him. On the way there, he always inquired about the training program – what was new, what was I working on. On the way back, he would talk about the patient that had just been presented to him – he would be beaming and full of excitement. Once, [Esther de Boer](#) had presented a particularly intriguing patient to him, replete with PowerPoint slides. He was enthralled and couldn’t stop talking about it. The last patient that was presented to him was an obese woman with nephrotic syndrome. He attributed the nephrotic syndrome to massive obesity and quoted a 1974 Annals study of 4 patients with the same presentation as we drove back! This was his last intern chart conference. It was March 13, 2018. [Taylor Nipp](#) was presenting. On the drive back, I asked Dr. Seldin if he had eaten lunch. He told me he was to have a CT scan that afternoon and had skipped lunch for that reason. On the following Thursday, he was unwell. His assistant called me and Dr. Haley. We met him in his office and took him to the CUH emergency room. He was admitted to a teaching team. [Glynnis Garry](#) was the resident. Friday was Match Day. I visited Dr. Seldin at CUH that Saturday and showed him the match list – he was delighted. He returned to his office one more time the following week, which was the last time I saw him.

Dr. Seldin opted for home hospice and began to write notes to people he cared about. I was truly honored to get one on April 20, 2018.

Dear Kazi,

As you know, I am in the last stages of an aggressive lymphoma. It is unlikely I will see you again.

Let me say in all honesty that not only have you done an excellent job with the house-staff; I believe your partnership with Dr. Johnson will result in the best Department of Medicine in the country.

Warmly,

Dr. Seldin

On all the occasions we discussed the residency program, he never once brought up his own time as the Program Director or valorized the “good old times.” He knew that **these** are the good times. His vision was always about what was possible, not about what had happened in the past – he was constantly looking ahead and assiduously avoided reminiscing about earlier times. He only had words of encouragement for me. He was a regular at resident liver rounds. It did not take me long to figure out that his favorite beverage was gin and tonic – let me correct that – it was all gin, no tonic! He lived a marvelous life. His passion went well beyond academic medicine. He could recite W.B. Yeats’s poems. He shared his travel stories with me – especially his annual trip to Italy. On one occasion, I visited his home. I remember the spectacular artwork that adorned the walls. A rare glimpse into his personal world. His office was full of books and papers, piled up everywhere, but he looked immaculate and elegant.



Dr. Seldin's last Resident Graduation in 2017

You can learn more about Dr. Seldin – this is the best resource <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wA74-SKeWng>. It is informative and inspiring.

Congratulations to all the presenters and Eid Mubarak to all who celebrate.

Dino Kazi