Friends and Colleagues:

John Stokes died at 6:45 am Pacific Time, Monday, August 13, 2012 in Eugene, Oregon from complications due to a glioblastoma multiform brain tumor. He was with his wife, Jackie, daughters Jossi and Jenni, and his grandchildren.

A memorial service for John will be held on Saturday, September 1, 2012 at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Iowa City (1300 Melrose Avenue) beginning at 9:00 am.

Contributions in memory of Dr. Stokes should be made payable to the UI Foundation. Clearly note that your gift is in memory of Dr. John Stokes and include the area of support in the check memo or in an enclosed note. Gifts may be directed to support the Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center or the Renal Research Development Fund and should be sent to:

University of Iowa Foundation
PO Box 4550
Iowa City IA  52244

John was born on March 26, 1944 in Temple, Texas. He received his BA from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 1966 and his MD from Temple University in 1971. He completed residency (1975) and fellowship training (1978) at Washington University (St. Louis) and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School (Dallas). Between appointments at these institutions, he was at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute where he served as the first coordinator of the National High Blood Pressure Education Program (1972-74), a prototype program for several chronic diseases such as hypercholesterolemia and diabetes mellitus. He joined the University of Iowa Department of Internal Medicine in 1978, becoming director of the Division of Nephrology in 1982, a position he held until his death. Most recently he served as Executive Vice Chair for the Department of Medicine.

Over the decades, John’s research focused on the regulation of sodium, potassium and other ions transported in the distal nephron segments of the kidney. Ion transport in this region of the kidney exerts fine control on body fluid volume and electrolyte composition. Most of the known genetic causes of hypertension effect sodium transport in this region of the kidney. Research in his laboratory
helped to frame the fundamental mechanisms that regulate transport of sodium and other ions contributing to hypertension and disorders in body fluid and electrolyte balance.

A leader in the planning and execution of many of the seminal large multicenter NIH-sponsored clinical trials in nephrology including the HEMO trial, the ARF trial, the CRIC study and the FHN trial, John also served in a number of national organizations including the American Society of Nephrology Board of Advisors and was director of the O'Brien Kidney Research Center at the University of Iowa from 1997-2010. He was a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, and the American Clinical and Climatological Association.

A longstanding member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles (FOE), John worked with this organization to secure a pledge of 25M dollars in 2008 – the fourth largest gift ever to the University of Iowa -- to create the FOE Diabetes Research Center at the University of Iowa.

John was the go-to consultant on virtually all matters of department and University business. His integrity, loyalty, and analytical abilities made him the advisor-in-chief for each of the five department heads he served in his 34 years at Iowa. He was admired by his faculty and fellows and loved by his friends and colleagues and by one million Eagles throughout North America.

He will be missed.

Mark E. Anderson, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine and
  Molecular Physiology & Biophysics
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