

Obituary

Prabin Shrestha, MD, PhD
Gopal Sedain, MS, MCh



Alber Loren Rhoton, Jr. MD

(November 18, 1932-February 21, 2016)

Rhoton is the name that is familiar to every neurosurgeon and neurosurgical nurses in the Operating room. His experience in extensive brain dissection and neuroanatomy text books are like holy books to all neurosurgeons. Similarly, his microinstrument set is a must in the neurosurgical operating room if possible.

Dr. Rhoton completed his neurosurgical training at Washington University with Dr. Henry Schwartz in 1965. He stayed there for 1 year as a research fellow in neuroanatomy. At this time he began to use the microscope for his research work and immediately saw that it would be very useful for work in human neurosurgery. In 1966, Dr. Rhoton went to the Mayo Clinic where he served as a consultant and staff neurosurgeon, and began his microanatomical studies of human organs. He became Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Florida in 1972. He was the R.D. Keene Family Professor of Neurosurgery.

He published three books and 498 scientific papers. "Cranial Anatomy and Surgical Approaches," is the best-selling neurosurgery book in the world. *The Rhoton Collection*® is an online repository of Dr. Rhoton's teaching materials. More than 200 surgical instruments now used in neurosurgery bear his name. He established the Dr. Albert L. Rhoton Neuro-Microanatomy Lab at McKnight Brain Institute. He was the director of the Lab.

Affiliations, awards and honors

- 1978, President of Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), USA
- 1981, Distinguished Faculty Award, University of Florida
- 1984, Alumni Achievement Award, Washington University School of Medicine
- 1990, President of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons
- 1997, Jamieson Medal and Lecturer, Neurosurgical Society of Australasia
- 1998, Harvey Cushing Medal, American Association of Neurological Surgeons
- 2000, Herbert Olivecrona Award, Karolinska Institute
- 2001, Medal of Honor, World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies
- 2002, Lifetime Achievement Award, University of Florida
- 2006, Founder's Laurel, Congress of Neurological Surgeons
- 2009, Golden Neuron Award, World Academy of Neurological Surgeons
- 2011, "Neurosurgeon of the Year" by the Journal "World Neurosurgery"

Despite having metastatic prostate cancer, Rhoton worked in his neurosurgery laboratory until a week before his death, mentoring neurosurgeons from around the world and working on papers. He is survived by his wife Joyce and four children all pursuing medical careers.