

Helping Medical Students Also Helps Patients

Rudolph J. Napodano, M.D. Class of 1959



An educator and mentor to medical students and residents for nearly 30 years, Dr. Rudolph Napodano, Class of 1959, has observed the growing dilemma of indebtedness for entering physicians.

"Years ago as many of us cared for patients, we did not worry about the fees from some who were indigent because we were making a good living. Supported by my family, I was able to finish medical school with virtually no debt.

Today, medical graduates are burdened with a tremendous debt after medical school, residency, and even more if they go into a subspecialty. This huge debt also means fewer possibilities for these physicians to help the underserved, and that bothers me."

As a result, Dr. Napodano gave \$25,000 to the Medical Alumni Foundation to initiate a scholarship. He plans to add to the endowment over time until it reaches the level of a full four-year tuition scholarship award. "It was a privilege for me to become a physician," he notes. "And, those of us who have had a measure of success I hope will think about establishing scholarship funds, particularly for medical students."

Dr. Napodano retired in 1993 from the position of Professor of Medicine and Director of the Primary Care Program in Internal Medicine at the University of Rochester. Since retirement, he has taught general/internal medicine part-time for the SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse. He lives in Clayton, New York.