

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Donald E. Wilson

PERSON

Wilson, Donald E., 1936-

Alternative Names: Dr. Donald E. Wilson;

Life Dates: August 28, 1936-

Place of Birth: Worcester, Massachusetts, USA

Residence: Owings Mills, MD

Work: Baltimore, MD

Occupations: Physician;

Biographical Note

Physician and academic administrator Dr. Donald E. Wilson born on August 28, 1936 in Worcester, Massachusetts to Rivers and Licine Wilson. He attended Dix Street Preparatory School and North High School in Worcester, Massachusetts. Wilson then attended Harvard University and received his B.A. degree in biology in 1958. He later received his M.D. degree from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1962.

Wilson completed his residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Boston; and, in 1964, worked as the senior medical resident in gastroenterology. Wilson then became the chief resident and research fellow at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital in 1965. In 1966, after being drafted into the United States Air Force and stationed in Omaha, Nebraska, he served as a medical consultant for the V.A. Hospital as well as the chief of internal medicine while chairing the department of medicine at Ehrling Bergquist U.S.A.F. Hospital. Wilson was discharged in 1968, and subsequently moved to New York and joined the Brooklyn Cumberland Medical Center as associate chief of gastroenterology. During this time, he also served as an instructor and attending physician at the State University of New York Hospital, Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. In 1971, Wilson was hired by the University of Illinois as assistant professor and director of the division of gastroenterology. By 1975, he was promoted to full professor. In 1980, Wilson returned to SUNY Downstate Medical Center as professor and chairman of the department of medicine. In 1991, he became dean of the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Medicine, making him the first African American to be dean of a non-minority medical school in the United States. He served there until 2006 when he retired. In 2008, Wilson briefly came out of retirement to serve as senior vice president for health sciences at Howard University until 2010.

Wilson has been elected to membership in the Association of American Physicians, the American Clinical and Climatological Association, and the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine). He is also a master of the American College of Physicians and has served on many advisory boards including as chairman of the Association of American Medical Colleges and a director of the National Institutes of Health.

Wilson has received numerous awards throughout his career, including the Frederick Douglass Award from the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, being named Baltimore Magazine's 2007 Baltimorean of the Year, and the Abraham Flexner Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Wilson lives in Maryland with his wife, Patricia. He has four children.

Dr. Donald E. Wilson was interviewed by The HistoryMarkers on January 25, 2020.

Related Entries

Dix Street School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Dix Street Preparatory School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

North High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

1954

Harvard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

A.B.

Tufts University School of Medicine [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.D.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1962 to 1963]

Intern

Veterans Administration Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1963 to 1964]

Resident

Tufts University School of Medicine [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1964 to 1965]

Teaching Fellow

Lemuel Shattuck Hospital [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1965 to 1966]

Chief Resident

United States Air Force [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1966 to 1967]

Captain

University of Nebraska School of Medicine [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1967 to 1967]

Instructor

Brooklyn-Cumberland Medical Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1968 to 1971]

Associate Chief of Gastroenterology

State University of New York Hospital, Downstate Medical Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1968 to 1971]

Attending physician and instructor of medicine

University of Illinois Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1971 to ?]

Professor

Prostaglandins Journal [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1972 to 2000]

Editor

State University of New York Hospital, Downstate Medical Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1980 to 1991]

Professor

University Hospital of Brooklyn, SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn and Kings County Hospital Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1980 to 1991]

Chairman of the department of medicine and Physician-in-Chief

University of Maryland School of Medicine [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1991 to 2006]

Dean

Howard University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2007 to 2009]

Senior vice president for health sciences

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

American Gastroenterological Association [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

American College of Physicians [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Association of Professors of Medicine [MEMBEROF]

[from 1980 to ?]

Secretary and Treasurer

Association for Academic Minority Physicians [MEMBEROF]

[from 1986 to ?]

Founder and President

Maryland Health Care Commission [MEMBEROF]

[from 1994 to 2004]

Chair

Association of American Medical Colleges [MEMBEROF]

[from 2003 to ?]

Chair

Cobb Institute [MEMBEROF]

[from 2017 to ?]

Chair