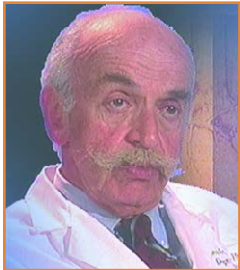


## NICHOLAS A. HALASZ, M.D. 1931 – 1999



Nicholas A. Halasz was born on March 13, 1931, in Budapest, Hungary. He received his early education in his native land, graduating with a B.A. degree from Teachers College, Budapest, before immigrating to the United States and receiving a Sc.B. degree from Trinity College in 1950. He attended medical school at Yale University, receiving his M.D. degree (cum laude) in 1954. He continued his postgraduate training in general, cardiovascular, and thoracic surgery at the same institution. After obtaining his U.S. citizenship, he served his military service from 1956 to 1958 as a captain in the U.S. Army and he functioned as a surgical officer for the 121st Evacuation Hospital in Korea at Fort Dix Army Hospital. Following completion of his surgical training at Yale, he moved to the West Coast, joining the faculty of the Department of Surgery at UCLA, in 1963, as an Assistant Professor. He was quickly promoted to Associate Professor.

In 1967, he was one of the founding faculty members of the UCSD School of Medicine, joining UCSD as a Professor of Surgery and Head of the Division of Anatomy. Dr. Halasz was also the founding Director of the UCSD Transplantation Program, and he performed the first kidney transplant in San Diego. He developed one of the best human anatomy courses for medical students in the country. He received numerous awards and prizes, both as an undergraduate and postgraduate, and was a Markle Scholar in academic medicine from 1964 to 1969. He holds the record at UCSD for receiving the Kaiser Award for Teaching Excellence in four separate years. He was also awarded the Chancellor's Associate Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1989, and was voted Physician of the Year at UCSD Medical Center in 1994.

Nick Halasz was known as a teacher and mentor for generations of housestaff and medical students. An outstanding clinician, teacher, researcher, and colleague, he was a "renaissance man" in the truest sense of the term. He has unselfishly served the Department and the University in multiple important roles and on countless committees. He has acted as interim Division Chief and Program Director in General Surgery during the period of 1981-83. When he retired from full-time University employment in 1994, he undertook the position of Chief of Surgical Services at the V.A. Medical Center in La Jolla, where his organization, leadership, ingenuity, and sense of fairness helped reorganize and rejuvenate surgical practice and teaching at that institution. His published contributions of over 170 papers covered a wide variety of general surgery topics from transplantation to trauma, hepatobiliary disease, wound healing, gastrointestinal disorders, etc. He was a member of virtually all the prestigious national and international surgical organizations and societies and participated in the affairs of very many of them in active fashion. He served on the Editorial Board of several peer-reviewed journals. He was a board member/Director of the American Board of Surgery, from 1984-1988. He has been President of the San Diego Society of General Surgeons, California Society of Transplant Surgeons, and Western Association of Transplant Surgery.

In spite of all his achievements and contributions, Nick was a quiet, modest, and unassuming person. His dedication to surgical education was genuine. He made a lot of personal sacrifices to help others in our department. He was one of the few true surgical scholars that I have met. He was a world traveler, knowledgeable in the arts, literature, wine, and especially surgical history. He invariably had one or more surgical vignettes to share with us at our weekly grand rounds and mortality and morbidity conference on Saturday mornings. He never missed any such meeting when he was in town.

Nick faced his final illness with the same calm dignity that he approached any problem. He was a model patient and was genuinely considerate to his doctors and nurses. He was at work in his office 10 days following a major thoraco-abdominal operation! Once he realized that his disease was terminal, he planned his departure with thoughtfulness, taking care of all his affairs to spare his family and friends any potential hardship or difficulty later on.

Last, but not least, Nick was a good family man and a loyal friend. He is survived by his wife, Diane, and by his two children, Peter and Katherine. He is missed by all of us. As a mark of posthumous recognition, the General Surgery Service at the V.A. Medical Center and the Anatomy Dissecting Room at UCSD have both been named after him. In addition, the Department of Surgery has established a Nicholas A. Halasz Endowment Fund for this yearly memorial lecture.

- A.R.Moossa, M.D.

## The 16th Annual Nicholas A. Halasz Memorial Lecture

Presented by:



**John D. Mellinger, MD, FACS**  
*J. Roland Folse MD Endowed Chair in Surgery  
Vice Chair, Department of Surgery  
Chair of General Surgery  
General Surgery Residency Program Director  
SIU School of Medicine*

### “ The Core of Competence: It’s a Matter of the Heart”

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016  
7:30 a.m.**

Moores UCSD Cancer Center  
Goldberg Auditorium  
La Jolla, California

UCSD Department of Surgery



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA  
SAN DIEGO

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016**



**John D. Mellinger, MD, FACS**  
*J. Roland Folse MD Endowed Chair in Surgery  
Vice Chair, Department of Surgery  
Chair of General Surgery  
General Surgery Residency Program Director  
SIU School of Medicine*

John D. Mellinger, MD, FACS, serves as the J. Roland Folse, MD Endowed Chair in Surgery, Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery, Professor and Chair of General Surgery, and General Surgery Residency Program Director at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, IL. Dr. Mellinger received his MD from Case Western Reserve University. He completed residency training in general surgery at the Blodgett/St. Mary's Hospitals in Grand Rapids, MI, followed by a fellowship in surgical endoscopy at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Cleveland, OH. He has also completed a Surgical Education Research Fellowship through the Association for Surgical Education (ASE). He served on active duty in the United States Air Force, and prior to coming to SIU has had academic appointments at Wright State University, Michigan State University, and the Medical College of Georgia. His academic interests include surgical education, surgical endoscopy, gastrointestinal surgery, and international surgery. He is a past president of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery (APDS), serves on the Board of Governors of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA). He also serves as a Director on the American Board of Surgery (ABS), and chairs the General Surgery Residency Committee for the ABS. He has previously served as Academic Dean for the Commission on Medical and Dental Education of the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA), and as co-chair of the SAGES Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) committee, which has developed the Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery program mandated for all general surgery residents nationwide. He also serves as co-editor-in-chief of the American College of Surgeons Surgical Education Resource Page. Dr. Mellinger has received over 30 teaching awards, including the Outstanding Teacher Award of the ASE, and the Educator of the Year Award of the CMDA. Dr. Mellinger is married to his wife of 32 years, Elaine, and has 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

*The Department of Surgery has created an endowment with the purpose of fundraising for the Nicholas A. Halasz Chair at UCSD.  
All contributions are tax-deductible and should be made payable and addressed to the "Nicholas A. Halasz Endowment Fund" in care of the  
UCSD Department of Surgery  
200 West Arbor Drive, Mail Code 8400  
San Diego, California, 92103-8400*

**Program**

**7:30 a.m. Welcome**

**Bryan M. Clary, MD**

*Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery  
M.J. Orloff Family Endowed Chair in Surgery  
Surgeon-in-Chief  
UC San Diego Health System*

**7:35 a.m. Remembering Nicholas A. Halasz, MD**

**Steven R. Sparks, MD**

*Associate Clinical Professor  
Vascular and General Surgical Service*

**7:45 a.m. Introduction of Guest Speaker**

**Garth Jacobsen, MD**

*General Surgery Residency Program Director  
Director of Clinical Operations, Center for the Future of Surgery  
Director, UCSD Hernia Center  
UC San Diego Health*

**7:50 a.m. The 16th Annual  
Nicholas A. Halasz Memorial Lecture**

**"THE CORE OF COMPETENCE:  
IT'S A MATTER OF THE HEART"**

**John D. Mellinger, MD, FACS**

*J. Roland Folse MD Endowed Chair in Surgery  
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