

about R. Knight Steel, M.D.

R. Knight Steel, MD received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his medical degree from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. He did his post-graduate residency, including a year as Chief Resident, at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Dr. Steel was the first Chief, Geriatrics Section, Evans Memorial Department of Medicine, Boston University where he served as Professor of Medicine and Professor of Socio-Medical Sciences. He has been a visiting professor at the Yale University School of Medicine, Harvard University Medical School, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, University of California at San Francisco, University of Rochester and numerous other schools. He has published over 100 articles, including one reporting the results of one of the first studies on iatrogenic disease, originally published in the New England Journal of Medicine and recently selected to be a "classic paper."



Dr. Steel is one of the founding members of interRAI, a non-profit organization comprised of an international group of approximately 50 researchers and clinicians from most of Europe as well as Canada, the United States, Israel, Japan, India and China. It's mission is to improve the care of elders worldwide by designing standardized clinical assessment tools for use in all levels of care. These are then provided predominantly to governments and the data obtained is analyzed to assure the best quality of care. The corporation's "fellows" have published over 500 papers and have been hosted where the Nobel Prizes are given out by the Mayor of Stockholm. In 2009 Dr Steel chaired a session at the World Congress on Gerontology in Paris describing some of the research from interRAI. (See www.interRAI.org)

He was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Geriatrics Society, becoming President in 1984. He chaired the first Certifying Examination Committee on Geriatric Medicine for both the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Family Practice. He was the first Chair of the Council of Medical Societies of the American College of Physicians and he was a co-founder of the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR), a not for profit corporation dedicated to supporting predominantly basic research in aging. Internationally, Dr. Steel served as Chief, Health of the Elderly Programme for the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. He delivered the opening address to the World Congress on Gerontology in 1993 and has been an invited speaker and consultant in many nations including Norway, Iceland, the Netherlands, Japan, India, Italy and the United Kingdom. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Dr. Steel has consulted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Office of Technology Assessment, the Congress of the United States and the Institute of Medicine. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine (the first house officer ever to receive this award), the first Geriatric Medicine Academic Award from the NIH, the Milo D. Leavitt Award from the American Geriatrics Society, and the Joseph T. Freeman Award from the Gerontological Society of America. In 1991 an endowed prize, The R. Knight Steel Award for Excellence in Geriatric Medicine was established at Boston University Medical Center.

He has published extensively in the lay press as well, including the writing of a weekly column for the Newark Star Ledger and an op-ed editorial in the Wall Street Journal. His programs have been ranked highly by U S News and World Report. He has been quoted on CBS News and has been interviewed on PBS (The Charlie Rose Show) and other national television networks. He has been quoted on the front page of the Wall Street Journal and a paper he co-authored was the subject of an article on the front page of the New York Times.