



# City of Cambridge

10.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 21, 1991

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the retirement of Joseph Gryboski, M.D., longtime Cambridge practitioner.

In City Council October 21, 1991.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John E. Flynn".

John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk

10

Content.

October 4, 1991

Councillor Russell

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be & hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the retirement of Joseph Gryboski, <sup>M.D.</sup> a longtime Cambridge Practitioner

C. R.  
Retirement  
of

Mr. Joseph

Gyboski

to Oct. 30, 1991  
retirement  
party

**MOUNT AUBURN HOSPITAL**

330 Mount Auburn Street  
Cambridge, MA 02238

TO: Joe Connaughton

FAX NO.: (617) 349-4307

FROM: Larry Dion

FAX NO.: (617) 499-5593

MESSAGE: Thank You!

Additional Award:

1991 Leo A. Blacklow

NAME: Larry Dion

DEPT: Medicine, Surgery and Medical Education

TEL. NO.: (617) 499-5140, 5150, 5160

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Joseph Stephen Gryboski  
 Address: 1 Mason Street, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173  
 Date of Birth: July 26, 1921  
 Place of Birth: Boston, Massachusetts

## Education:

1943 A.B. Boston University  
 1945 M.D. Tufts Medical School

## Postdoctoral Training:

## Internship and Residencies:

1945-1946 Intern in Medicine, Boston City Hospital  
 1948-1949 Resident in Medicine, Mount Auburn Hospital, Cambridge  
 1949-1951 Resident in Medicine, Veterans Administration Hospital,  
 West Roxbury, Massachusetts

## Licensure and Certification:

1948 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Registration  
 1955 American Board of Internal Medicine

## Academic Appointments:

1952-1958 Assistant in Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
 1958-1967 Instructor in Medicine, Boston City Hospital  
 1968-1971 Clinical Associate in Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
 1971- Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

## Hospital Appointments:

1950- Staff Physician, Mount Auburn Hospital  
 1950- Courtesy Staff, Sancta Maria Hospital, Cambridge  
 1951- Visiting Physician, Cambridge Hospital, Cambridge  
 1954-1973 Visiting Physician, Boston City Hospital, Boston

## Memberships:

1948- Massachusetts Medical Society  
 1948- American Medical Association  
 1948- American Society of Internal Medicine  
 1972- American Diabetes Association

91  
 45  
 46

Joseph Stephen Gryboski, M.D.

-2-

Teaching Experience:

1952-1967

Ward visit and instructor, Boston City Hospital

1968-

Ward visit; lecturer and instructor to Introduction  
to Clinical Medicine (Physical Diagnosis), Mount  
Auburn Hospital

Joseph Gerstein, M. D., F.A.C.P.  
521 Mount Auburn Street, Suite 202  
Watertown, MA 02172  
617-926-9000

May 18, 1991

JOE GRYBOSKI

**Indefatigable:** Joe has had the energy of two. He is the only physician I have ever known who honestly believed that it was easier to cover for yourself on the week-end than to bother signing out to someone else. His dynamism is legendary and a source of awe even to people one-half his age. One of our new rotating Residents observed Joe wheeling in his 3rd sick patient of a Sunday (he had seen them at home and driven them to the hospital in his car!) and said to me "who is that guy, the Road Runner?"

**Imperturbable:** Joe seems to get angry about once a year. It is amazing to see someone with such intensity and drive who has such flexibility and resiliency. Truly, the provocation must be extreme to move him to ire.

**Intuitive:** Generally speaking, I would rely more on Joe's snap judgment than on the studied deliberations of most mavens. He is the arch pragmatist. His conclusions, however glib they may appear to be, are distilled from a phenomenal experience, gleaned from seeing and recalling a tremendous number and diversity of cases. There is almost nothing that Joe hasn't seen as he covered big clinics single-handedly (and for no remuneration), did industrial medicine, was on-call for city hotels, served a consultant and teacher for a bevy of General Practitioners and surgeons and received a horde of patients from the Emergency Unit. I had a very enigmatic patient, early in my career, with cardiac tamponade due to sterile pus. He was seen by many consultants, discussed at Grand Rounds, etc. I had mentioned the details casually to Joe in the hall. His response: cancer. It seemed outlandish at the time. but after 3 weeks of work-up, he skunked all the professors again...it was cancer!

Joe separated patients who had a major psychosocial element to their illness into two categories: "tense" and "kooks". I did not recognize the distinction until after about 10 years of practice I went to a psychiatry conference and learned about Borderline Personalities, the "kooks". I remember distinctly the shock of recognition as I realized that Joe had worked out this important distinction between such people and us ordinary neurotics on his own long before.

Efficiency: Joe can do a work-up faster, with more essential information included than any physician I have met. As a House Officer, I interviewed a patient in exhaustive detail, I was very proud of the fact that I had ascertained that she had once resided in the San Joaquin Valley: coccidiomycosis was an extremely arcane possibility in the differential diagnosis of the case. Joe did his work-up in about 15 minutes. When I presented the case to him, he informed me that the town in which she had lived was actually about 50 miles north of the valley. This is vintage Gryboski.

Joe invented managed care. He has always been parsimonious with resources. Although curious, he always applied a utilitarian model to decisions, admonishing us not to put patients through arduous or expensive procedures unless the outcome was likely to be useful or productive. He thought and taught this was long before it was fashionable to do so in academic circles. Perhaps this streak of pragmatism derives from his long rides on the school bus from Carlisle to Concord, the bus that was converted from a manure spreader every Fall.

Joe has been a fantastic role model for an entire generation of house officers, including me. I am sad to say that he has probably driven a number from general internal medicine because his incredible stamina and diagnostic acumen have set a standard which many felt they could not hope to emulate.

Most important of all, despite all these remarkable attributes, which seem super-human, Joe was, and remains, the quintessential NICE GUY!

**COMMENTS FROM DR. RONALD A. ARKY:**

Joseph Gryboski is the complete clinician-teacher. First at the Boston City Hospital and for over 40 years at Mount Auburn, Dr. Gryboski has been the ideal "visit" and attending physician. His encyclopedic knowledge of general medicine, keen observational skills, diagnostic acumen and concise summation of a clinical problem have been gold standards for generations of medical students and houseofficers. In spite of a busy clinical practice, Joe Gryboski always found time for students or residents. His answers always made reference to the latest literature or clinical study.

Joe Gryboski always has a profound understanding of his patients and imparts the sense of this warm relationship to the student or houseofficer. His propensity for hard work and sensitivity to the burdens of houseofficers are traits that endear Dr. Gryboski to young physicians and are further reasons for his selection for the Leo A. Blacklow Teaching Award.

**COMMENTS FROM DR. CHARLES J. HATEM:**

Dr. Joseph Gryboski's illustrious career of teaching and practicing at Mount Auburn Hospital is the fitting basis for the 1991 Leo A. Blacklow Teaching Award. His practice of medicine has been notable for its sheer energy and remarkable acumen spread over many patients, colleagues, housestaff and students. Former residents, when encountered at national meetings, inevitably remember and ask for "Joe Gryboski" -- and follow-up with the sincerely felt observation, "He was amazing!" For many years, long before many of the current Mount Auburn staff were assembled, Dr. Gryboski's extensive contribution to clinical teaching were known to both the Harvard Medical Service at the Boston City Hospital (beginning there in 1951 teaching physical diagnosis as well as visiting) as well as the Mount. In a crucial way, Dr. Gryboski has served as an exemplary historical and on-going link between the traditions of the II and IV BCH Medical Services and the present day Mount Auburn as a community teaching institution likely would not exist. It is therefore appropriate that the 1991 Blacklow Award acknowledges the richness of his work as a superb clinician and teacher to many.

COMMENTS FROM DR. LEO A. BLACKLOW

I am delighted that Dr. Joseph Gryboski, a caring physician and outstanding teacher, has been chosen to be the second recipient of the Leo A. Blacklow Teaching Award.



# City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

October 21, 1991

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: A cornerstone in the medical community, Dr. Joseph S. Gryboski, has announced his retirement from active practice culminating a forty-sixth year career as a physician and internist, most of which has been spent serving the community of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Gryboski, a 1945 graduate of Tufts Medical School has been serving on the staff of the Mt. Auburn Hospital since doing his residency in medicine in 1948; and

WHEREAS: He has received academic appointments at the Harvard Medical School, Boston City Hospital and hospital appointments at Sancta Maria Hospital, the Cambridge Hospital and the Boston City Hospital providing expert care to thousands of patients throughout his tenure; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Gryboski is known to have invented the concept of "managed care," advising other physicians never to put patients through arduous or expensive procedures unless the outcome was likely to be useful or productive; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Gryboski has always demonstrated a profound understanding of his patients and imparts the sense of this warm relationship to his many students and house officers throughout the years; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its heartiest best wishes on his retirement from practice and many thanks to Dr. Gryboski for his work with the citizens of Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution on behalf of the City Council.

In City Council October 21, 1991.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.  
Attest:- John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk



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October 21, 1991

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**ORDERED:** That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitable resolution on the retirement of Joseph Gryboski, M.D., longtime Cambridge practitioner.

CONSENT ORDER # 10

*Sullivan S 1116*  
Councillor Russell resolutions on the  
retirement of Joseph Gryboski, M.D.,  
longtime Cambridge practitioner.

In City Council,

October 21, 1991

*Order Adopted*