

Hats off to a Seattle medical pioneer

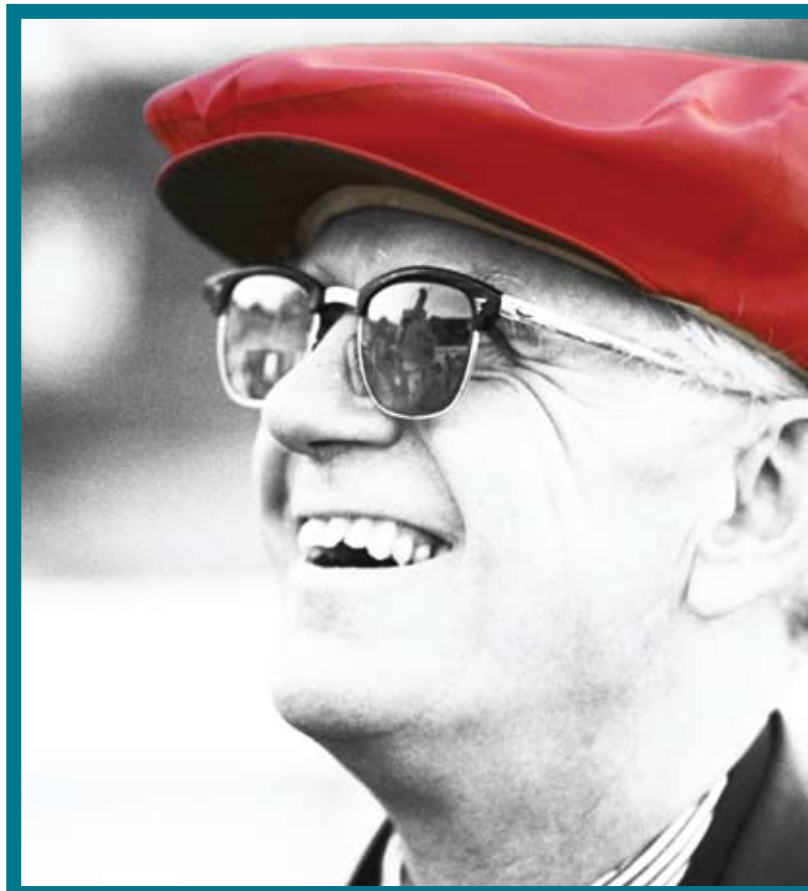


Photo credit: Dr. Eli Friedman, Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY

Fifty years ago Dr. Belding Scribner made history here in Seattle. A physician at University Hospital, "Scrib" was frustrated that dialysis worked for only a short time because it damaged a patient's blood vessels. After that, he would have to send the patient home to die of chronic kidney failure. Working with engineer Wayne Quinton, Scribner invented a device that revolutionized dialysis treatment.

On March 9, 1960, Scribner used the invention with patient Clyde Shields. The experiment succeeded, and Shields lived for 11 more years. The new device became standard, and life expectancy for kidney patients improved dramatically.

Scribner's work eventually led to establishment of the nonprofit Northwest Kidney Centers, the world's first out-of-hospital dialysis program, still serving our region. We are proud to carry out his vision to bring optimal health, quality of life and independence to people with kidney disease.



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