

How does one summarize a lifetime of achievements into less than 2 pages for a man who has done so much for the public health of our community? Here is our attempt.

Douglas Horbelt started his auspicious career after receiving his doctor of medicine from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas in 1972. He completed his post-graduate work at the University of Kansas School of Medicine—Wichita in 1975 and the University of Texas at MD Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston, Texas in 1982 with a focus of Ob/Gyn Oncology. Dr. Horbelt then returned to Wichita to set up his medical practice, where he also became part of the teaching community at the University of Kansas School of Medicine—Wichita and the Ob-Gyn Education at Wesley Medical Center. He held positions ranging from Assistant Professor to Professor, Assistant Director to Director, Acting Chairman to Chairman, and many other positions in between. If teaching and running programs and departments were not enough, Dr. Horbelt also did a great deal of women's healthcare research, sharing his expertise through professional journal articles and chapter writing for prominent Ob/Gyn books.

Despite Dr. Horbelt's many responsibilities, he always had time for his clients. Working as an Ob/Gyn oncologist, he often had to give bad news. His bedside manner with his clients was so good that even though the news was bad, his clients still loved him. One of the staff members at the M&I program credits Dr. Horbelt with saving her sister's life when her sister was diagnosed with cancer at age 17; not only by the medical care he gave, but by the support and strength he shared with her.

Colleagues of Dr. Horbelt report that he has the ability to bring others together to get things accomplished for the greater good, whether it was to improve residency education, do research, or assure that those who could not afford it receive high quality OB/GYN care. Dr. Horbelt was instrumental in establishing the Maternal and Infant Program at the Sedgwick County Health Department in the early 1980's, assuring that indigent and low-income women had a place to receive low cost prenatal care. For many years he oversaw the residents that practiced at the Maternal and Infant Clinic, making sure that the residents and the clients were satisfied with their experience. As his career expanded and this responsibility was delegated to others, he remained an important part of the proceedings. When the Maternal and Infant Clinic closed in early 2011, Dr. Horbelt seamlessly shifted the residents from the Maternal and Infant Clinic to two of the Federally-Funded Health Care Clinics (Hunter and Grace Med) to assure that the community's indigent and low-income women would continue to receive good prenatal care.

Thanks to Dr. Horbelt's devotion to doing research, improving outcomes and providing leadership, there is a brighter future available for generations yet to come in Wichita and the surrounding community.