

## **ROBERT J. SEGAL, MD-Class of '79**

Dr. Robert Segal grew up in the North Country of New York, near the Canadian border, graduated from Cornell University in 1971, and State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical School in 1975. He served as an Intern in Medicine also at Upstate. As the second person in his family to attend college and the first to go into medicine, Dr. Segal completed his residency at Stanford in 1979. He was chief resident and on the volunteer clinical faculty in 1979. Dr. Segal has maintained university faculty affiliations throughout his career; after Stanford he was on faculty at Southern Illinois University with Dr. Walter Shelley until 1994, at St Louis University until 2000, and at the University of Arizona to the present time. Dr. Segal invented the DermaBlade in 1995 and holds 6 patents on the tool used worldwide for tangential skin excisions and biopsies. He also developed the line of Segal Re-Sterilizable electrodes.

Dr. Segal's passion for Dermatology began on the wards at Upstate, when a patient was admitted with a blistering rash. The University hospital did not have a Dermatology service at the time, and the patient ultimately had to be transferred to Buffalo to achieve a diagnosis. Dr. Segal was and still is intrigued by the rich history of Dermatology and the wide variety of conditions which present with skin disease.

Dr. Segal began his Stanford residency in 1976. During his training he studied leprosy at Carville, which was a working leprosarium. He studied the sexually transmitted infections at what was then called the VD clinic in East San Jose. Stanford was a center for psoriasis treatment and the Dermatology ward in Hoover Pavillion provided inpatient tar and anthralin treatments, PUVA, psoriasis day care, and comprehensive skin care including for wounds and ulcers.

After finishing his Stanford residency in 1976, Dr. Segal joined a clinic in Quincy IL as their first Dermatologist. He returned to Stanford in 1992 as a clinical scholar and studied iatrogenic UV light exposure after seeing a Dentist who developed skin cancers from a faulty surgical lamp. This research came in handy back in Illinois, when some clever detective work discovered a UV-C germicidal bulb improperly placed on a hospital desk, causing an outbreak of sunburns among the staff! He received an award from the American Academy of Dermatology after developing the first nationwide ultraviolet monitoring network. During his time at Stanford, it had become common practice in Dermatology to use razor blades split in half for biopsies, which resulted in some nasty lacerations to medical staff on a regular basis. In search of a better solution, Dr. Segal invented the DermaBlade, which some say is the finest (and simplest) surgical tool ever devised. Similarly, Dr. Segal developed the Segal Re-Sterilizable electrodes in 1993 after seeing Dermatologists use bent paper clips as unsterilized electrodes for office radiofrequency units.

Dr. Segal was in private practice in Las Cruces, New Mexico from 1995-2004, and in Tucson, Arizona until 2012. He joined the faculty at the University of Arizona in 2008 and is a professor of Medicine and Dermatology. He won the Furrow prize for undergraduate medical teaching and his current research interest is allergy to implanted metal. He and his wife, Anne, plan to spend more time in the Bay Area as they have two children living in Palo Alto; one is a PGY 4 at Stanford in Child Neurology and the other child teaches second grade. Dr. Segal is married to Anne Fisher Segal, JD, PhD who teaches at the University of Arizona.