

20th WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

USF INTERNAL MEDICINE & PEDIATRIC DIVISIONS OF ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Sweet Retirement after 41 years of service!!

Roger Williams Fox, M.D. FAAAAI received his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine in 1975. He completed three years of residency in internal medicine and two years of allergy/immunology at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, Tampa, Florida. He was the third fellow accepted into the Division's Allergy and Immunology program from 1978-1980. He is Board certified both in internal medicine and pediatric and adult allergy and immunology.

Dr. Fox joined the faculty and the USF-affiliated practice beginning in 1980 and has been faculty member since. He has been elected to "The Best Doctors in America" for the past several decades and was involved in the training of well over 100 physicians in the specialty. He served as Training Program Director for 20 years. He has extensively published in the medical literature and lectured locally, nationally and internationally, and served on a variety of different boards, including the Hillsborough County Medical Association, the Florida Allergy Asthma and Immunology Society, of which he is a past-president, and numerous committees of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. He is a Fellow both in the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology.

Dr. Fox practiced medicine at the USF-affiliated Allergy/Immunology Clinic, USF Morsani College of Medicine Allergy/Immunology Clinic, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, as well as served as a consultant for Advent Hospital, Moffitt Cancer Center, and Tampa General Hospital during the past 30 to 40 years. He directed the James A. Haley Veteran's Administration Hospital Allergy and Immunology Clinics for more than 30 years. He was a mentor and clinician and enjoyed doing so. He regularly participated in clinical research at the USF Clinical Research Unit, was a world expert in allergic- and immunologic-induced skin diseases. He is a current USF Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and among his clinical interests include vocal cord dysfunction, chronic cough, acute and chronic urticaria and angioedema, allergic drug reactions, food allergy, eosinophilic GI disorders, atopic eczema, chronic pruritus, allergic respiratory allergies and sinusitis.

Always brightening the morning of the Division's office staff, Dr. Fox greeted everyone with his bright, beaming smile. He was always known as the "blonde fox" but then became the "silver fox". Most of all, the office staff enjoyed hearing his famous line, "Is it Friday yet?", as the staff looked forward to the end of the week and being able to answer with a snicker, "Yes!".

Dr. Fox has been an integral part of the Division of Allergy and Immunology since its inception. He deserves every accolade one can bestow on a physician, mentor, friend and colleague. Now, he is enjoying his retirement and relishing spending time with his family and four grandchildren all under the age of 6 years old. His wife, Cynthia, and he have three children; a daughter, Russchelle, and two sons, Rawley and Travis. They help take care of their four grandchildren. Each day is different for instead of meeting at 7:00 AM for Division meetings at the University he busily prepares the yard and house for the arrival of his four precious grandchildren.

Dr. Fox is missed by everyone in the Division and we wish him a very happy retirement. You can write to him at rfox@usf.edu to say hello.

With warm regards,

Richard F. Lockey, MD
Distinguished University Health Professor
Joy McCann Culverhouse Chair in Allergy
and Immunology
Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics & Public Health
Director, Division of Allergy and Immunology
Department of Internal Medicine

Jolan Walter, MD, PhD
Robert A. Good Endowed Chair in Immunology
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine
Chief, Division of Allergy and Immunology
Department of Pediatrics

Reflections by Dr. Fox on his retirement

To be or not to be retired, that is the question?

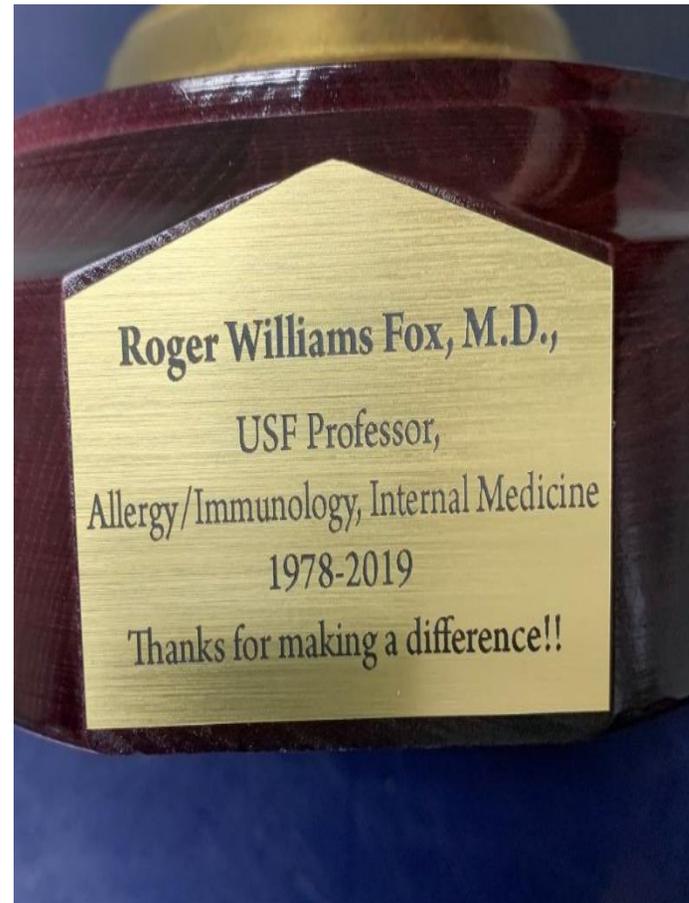
After 41 years of being a busy physician in an Allergy practice and working at USF and the VA, I made the difficult decision to retire at the end of 2019. The transition to retirement and a casual lifestyle wasn't too difficult for me, but I needed a plan. For example, I haven't put on a necktie except on several occasions as an attending in the VA Allergy Clinics in January and February. A significant part of my retirement is the daily involvement with our four grandchildren, all under the age of 6 years old. Our house is decorated in daycare and my wife is great with keeping the grandkids entertained, fed and in clean diapers. Family Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays and a weekend at Disney kept me busy for the first several months. Cynthia and I had planned several trips during 2020 and were looking forward to being tourists. In mid-March, the world was placed on notice that a coronavirus pandemic needed a plan of action to protect society from widespread transmission. In late February, we were on a cruise from Dubai to Singapore. The entire time during our adventure no one wore masks or was concerned about the virus. While we were at the magnificent Taj Mahal in early March, our tour guide was notified that our group needed to return to our ship in Mumbai and emergently leave India the next day for the USA. The cruise was cancelled one week early. All ports were closed to cruise ships in order to reduce the risk of the virus entering their country. After several frantic calls and emails to our travel agent, we were able to purchase flights back to Tampa through London, several days before travel restrictions from Europe were instituted. Self-quarantined for 2 weeks at home after the trip along with social distancing and essentially lockdown for 2 more months was required. With the mandated isolation, I discovered the art of relaxation (when the grandkids weren't in our home), the joy of reading nonmedical books, and riding my bike daily. I ventured out of the house only to go shopping at Publix which was initially stressful. Not everyone wore masks at that time. Schools were closed due to COVID 19. Therefore, our grandkids were at our house for most days for 2 months during the remainder of the Spring. Playgrounds were closed. Our pool and lake became the weekend entertainment. Family gatherings at our house are frequent, and fortunately, everybody has remained healthy. Three of the grandkids have been in preschool or camp most of the summer and have returned to school at the end of August. We all feel that the children are safe in their schools.

I feel guilty that I retired before the deleterious effects of the virus at the office, USF and the VA and how it has adversely affected my friends, faculty, staff and patients. The highlight of announcing my retirement was all of the sincere and heartfelt notes, cards, emails and comments from patients and friends. I miss the professional and academic face-to-face (without a mask) interactions. I have time now to play an extra round of golf occasionally and plan a golf trip with my golf buddies to the mountains of North Carolina. (I feel that I am contributing to the economy). Sports are back on TV! The economy is improving. A vaccine is in development.

I miss all of you very much. I will be a volunteer attending in the VA Allergy Clinics and continue contributing to lectures and literature reviews.

Warm regards,

Roger W. Fox, MD



Award presented to Roger Williams Fox, MD, as a token of gratitude for his excellence in patient care and research during his 41 years of service, from the Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine



*Dr. Fox in his office at 13801 Bruce B. Downs Blvd,
Tampa, Florida*

Dr. Fox at his best!!





Dr. Fox retirement party:

Front row (L to R): Carol Lockey, Shandra Pinkney, Linda Livingston, Pat Shepherd, Dr. Glaum, Cynthia Fox

Middle Row: (L to R): Dona Shearer, Kim Rose, Dr. Fox, Kathy O'Berry, Mrs. Grant, Debbie McKinney, Dr. Pepper, Janet O'Neill,

Back Row: Dr. Lockey, Dr. Ledford, Dr. Ed Grant, Dan Pepper, Melinda Bessant



The Fox grandchildren: Colton, Vivienne, Charlotte and Aiden

***The Fox
grandchildren
page***



Aiden and Colton



Charlotte Fox



Aiden with Teddy Bear the cat



Vivienne Fox