

# ARTHRITIS PROGRESS REPORT

Special Edition:  
April 2014



The  
**Rosalind Russell**  
Medical Research Center for Arthritis

**UCSF**

Division of Rheumatology

## Center Renamed to Honor Dr. Engleman

*Our new name: Russell / Engleman Rheumatology Research Center*

**D**r. Ephraim P. Engleman—the driving force behind the Rosalind Russell Medical Research Center for Arthritis since its founding 35 years ago—has been honored by UCSF for his leadership in a major way. The Center's name has been changed to incorporate his name.

The formal new name is the Rosalind Russell / Ephraim P. Engleman Rheumatology Research Center at UCSF. For short, it's called the Russell / Engleman Center.

At the age of 103, Dr. Engleman continues to direct the Center with vitality. Over the years, he has helped raise more than \$50 million from private sources for the Center to invest in rheumatology research in the UCSF Division of Rheumatology.

Dr. Engleman is a giant in the field of rheumatology, having led scores of local and national committees over six decades that helped accelerate research and improve patient care. The highlight of his career was serving as chairman of the Congressionally-mandated National Arthritis Commission in 1975. In this capacity, he worked closely with the renowned stage and screen actress Rosalind Russell—a major star from the 1930s to 1970s. Miss Russell had publicly announced she had rheumatoid arthritis—a courageous act at a time when the disease was commonly crippling. Her disclosure hurt her career.

Nonetheless—shocked at the lack of treatments—she was determined to use her influence to improve arthritis

care. She persuaded the U.S. Congress to establish the national commission Dr. Engleman chaired, and she served on it. Its purpose was to study in depth the clinical, social and economic effects of arthritis on American society and to recommend specific actions to improve the situation.

The results of Dr. Engleman and Miss Russell's collaboration set in motion tremendous advances in rheumatology research that have revolutionized patient care today. For example, the commission's recommendations led to a more than doubling of NIH funds for rheumatology research and to the creation of the National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

Dr. Engleman has had a particularly strong influence on rheumatic disease research at UCSF. With financial support from the Russell / Engleman Center, division scientists have made major contributions, including:

- Conducting groundbreaking basic science research on the causes and mechanisms of rheumatic diseases.
- Establishing the nation's largest clinical trials center for testing many new treatments for arthritis and other rheumatic diseases.
- Playing a role—often a leadership role—in the development of new drugs for many rheumatic diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, juvenile arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and systemic vasculitis.



**Ephraim P. Engleman, M.D.**

- Producing important new knowledge about the links between genetics and rheumatic diseases.
- Training more than 130 physicians to become leaders in the field of rheumatology research, more than any other institution in the nation.

"I am deeply moved by the Center being renamed in my honor," says Dr. Engleman. "But more importantly, I am gratified to have lived to this time when a large number of highly esteemed scientists talk about the inevitability of a cure for many rheumatic diseases."

**Dr. Engleman's colorful life story was recently published in the hard-back book, *My Century*. It is available for \$19.95 only at Amazon.com. All proceeds benefit the Russell/Engleman Rheumatology Research Center.**

# Ephraim P. Engleman: Preeminent Rheumatologist

## 1930s

Graduates from Stanford University and Columbia medical school.



## 1940s

Trains as rheumatologist, Massachusetts General Hospital. Serves during WWII.



## 1950s

Begins six decades serving on national and international committees related to rheumatology.

## 1975

Serves as Chairman of the National Commission on Arthritis, working with actress Rosalind Russell, who dies in 1976.



*Rosalind Russell.*

## 1962

Serves as president, American Rheumatism Association (now the American College of Rheumatology).

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

## 1979

U.S. Congress creates the Rosalind Russell Medical Research Center for Arthritis at UCSF. Dr. Engleman named director.



*Mayor Dianne Feinstein and Rosalind Russell's husband, Freddy Brisson, at Center opening.*

## 1990s

UCSF establishes the Ephraim P. Engleman Distinguished Professorship in Rheumatology and also awards Dr. Engleman its Medal of Honor.

## 1980s

Serves as president, International League Against Rheumatism. Helps Chinese rheumatologists organize the Chinese Rheumatism Association.

## 2000s

American College of Rheumatology and Columbia medical school both award Dr. Engleman their Gold Medals.

## 2014

Center renamed the Rosalind Russell / Ephraim P. Engleman Rheumatology Research Center. At age 103, Dr. Engleman continues to direct it.

