

Wagner H. Bridger, MD

Wagner H. Bridger, MD died on February 10 after a long illness in Fountain Hills, AZ. He was 82. A research pioneer in the fields of biological psychiatry, psychopharmacology and neonatology, he was a Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York before moving to Philadelphia, PA in 1982. There he became Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the Medical College of Pennsylvania at the Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute. Appointed President of the Society of Biological Psychiatry in 1988 he was Editor Emeriti of its journal 1992-1997. A committed social activist he helped found the Medical Committee for Human Rights in 1964. Civil rights, peace and justice were causes that occupied his entire life. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he was a lover of life including pleasures such as Cuban cigars, Cape Cod, Wellfleet oysters and martinis. He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Rita Hayes Bridger, his 7 children, Eric Bridger, Cindy Bridger, Laurie Bridger, Colleen Jacobson, Mary Jane Sanacore, Colo Hayes III, Christopher Hayes and 11 grandchildren.