

# Kamal and Narayan Bonde Lifetime Achievement Award in Artificial Organs Development

BALTIMORE, MD, USA, May 8, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The American Society for Artificial Internal Organs (ASAIO) is pleased to announce that Dr. Robert Bartlett has been unanimously selected by the ASAIO Board of Trustees as the inaugural recipient of the [Kamal and Narayan Bonde](#) Lifetime Achievement Award in Artificial Organs Development.

Robert H. Bartlett, MD, FACS, received a BA from Albion College, Albion, Michigan, in 1960 and a MD, with honors, from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1963. He moved to Boston, where he served as

an Intern, Resident, and Senior Resident in Surgery at Peter Bent Brigham and Children's Hospital. In 1968, he was the Chief Resident in Thoracic Surgery at that institution and the following year served as its Chief Resident Surgeon. While at Brigham, he was a Research Fellow in Surgery, named the Arthur Tracy Cabot Teaching Fellow in Surgery, and became a Harvey Cushing Fellow. He also was a National Institutes of Health Trainee in Academic Surgery at Harvard Medical School.

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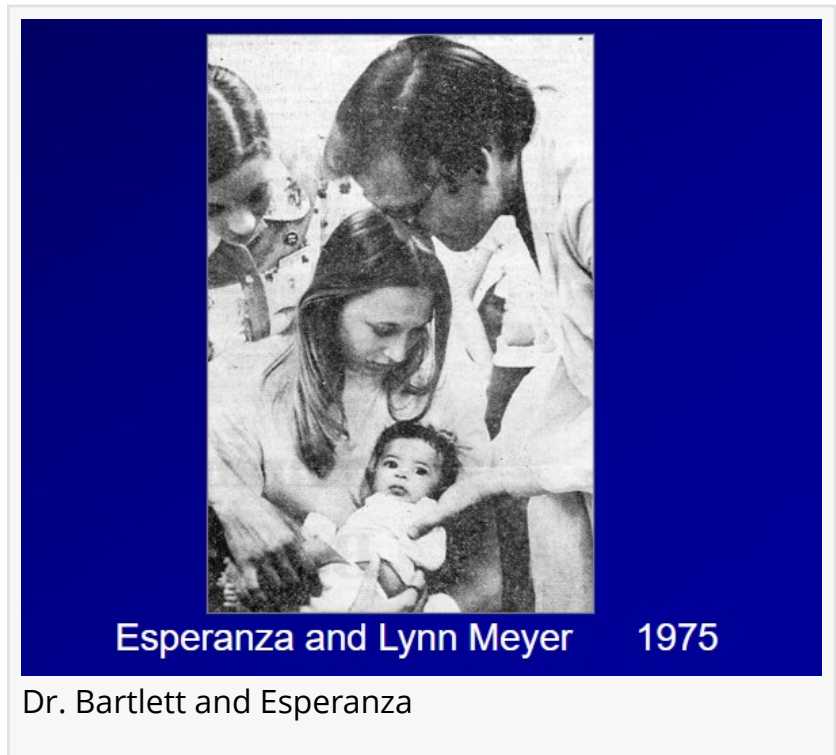
*Dr. Pramod Bonde, ASAIO  
President*

In 1970, he joined the faculty at the University of California, Irvine, as an Assistant Professor of Surgery. Over the next decade, Dr. Bartlett served as the Assistant Director of Surgical Services and the Director of the Burn Center and rose to the rank of Professor of Surgery.

In 1980, he returned to the University of Michigan where



his illustrious career continued. He became the Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, Director of Graduate Education, and Chief of the Trauma/Critical Care Division. As Professor of Surgery in the Sections of General and Thoracic Surgery, he developed a Surgical Critical Care Fellowship and the Extracorporeal Life Support Program. Dr. Bartlett is currently Professor Emeritus of Surgery. After a long and very broad practice he retired from the OR in 2005, and continues to run the Extracorporeal Life Support Laboratory at the University of Michigan.



Robert Bartlett's professional life has been characterized by exceptional vision, creativity, persistence, and energy. When Dr. Bartlett began his work at Brigham, cardiopulmonary bypass was limited to a few hours, because direct exposure of blood to oxygen for prolonged intervals was lethal. This observation led to the development of gas-permeable membranes that were interposed between the blood and the gas. In 1969, Dr. Bartlett published an account of a membrane oxygenator that allowed partial bypass in animals for up to four days. The following year he described a simple, reliable membrane oxygenator for organ perfusion. In 1975, Dr. Bartlett successfully treated the first infant, a little girl named by the nurses Esperanza, meaning "Hope," with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO. Five years later the neonatal ECMO project moved with Dr. Bartlett from the University of California, Irvine, to the University of Michigan, where experience gradually increased from a few cases each year to several cases each month. He standardized the technique and exported his ideas throughout the world. By virtue of his extraordinary perseverance, many varieties of neonatal lung failure were changed from 90 percent mortality rate to 90 percent survival rate. Many thousands of infants have been saved by his extraordinary bioengineering and clinical innovation.

Since 1982, the technology has been adapted to pediatric patients with respiratory failure. Seventy percent have survived, and none have had long-term pulmonary disability. Extension to adult respiratory distress syndrome was more difficult. The original randomized studies showed only a 10 percent survival rate in both treated and control groups. In spite of these discouraging results, Dr. Bartlett persisted and eventually achieved survival in more than 50 percent of adult patients. He has also pioneered the use of both arterial venous and venovenous hemofiltration. ECMO is now used for severe cardiac and respiratory failure in all ages worldwide. He founded the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization in 1989. ELSO maintains the Registry (>200,000 patients) and provides education to 800 global centers.

Dr. Bartlett's talents as an extraordinary investigator have been recognized throughout his career with over 30 separate research grants, 20 from the National Institutes of Health, including an RO1 grant for the development of a totally artificial lung. His research interests continue to expand. Under his guidance, the University of Michigan Cardiopulmonary Physiology and Extracorporeal Circulation Research Laboratory is pursuing projects studying blood clotting in extracorporeal circulation, liquid ventilation, implantable lung devices, pulmonary fibrosis in acute lung injury, and many more techniques for prolonged extracorporeal circulation. Dr. Bartlett's team is also developing an artificial liver system for use in patients who are waiting for liver transplants.

Dr. Bartlett has held leadership roles in most of the professional societies associated with critical care and the development of artificial organs. He has been president of both the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs and the International Society for Artificial Organs. He has served on the editorial boards of 15 major medical journals and written more than 600 articles in peer-reviewed publications.

His commitment to the American College of Surgeons includes being Co-Chair of the Postgraduate Course on Fluids and Electrolytes and a key member of the Pre- and Postoperative Care Committee. In 1996, he received the College's prestigious Sheen Award for Research. In 1998 he gave the I.S. Ravdin Lecture in the Basic Sciences and the John Gibbon lecture in 2013.

His contributions to surgery have been recognized by numerous awards, including a Medal of Special Recognition from the National Academy of Surgery of France, the McGraw Medal of the Detroit Surgical Association, the Medallion for Scientific Achievement from the American Surgical Association, and election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science. (Now the National Academy of Medicine).

"We are thrilled to recognize Dr. Bartlett as the inaugural recipient of the Kamal and Narayan Bonde Lifetime Achievement Award," said Dr. Pramod Bonde, President of ASAIO. "His groundbreaking contributions have set the standard for excellence in our field, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of researchers and clinicians."

The presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award will take place during the ASAIO 70th Anniversary Conference, held from May 28th to June 1st, 2024, at the Marriott Baltimore Waterfront.

American Society for Artificial Internal Organs

ASAIO

+1 978-927-8330

admin@asaio.org

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