

Sacramento Cardiovascular Surgeons would like to nominate Edward A. Smeloff, M.D.

In 1962 Edward Smeloff, M.D. worked with the mechanical engineering department at Sacramento State College to develop a mechanical heart , allowing the study of flow characteristics of a prototype valve, as well as all valves on the market at that time. These studies led to the development of the Smeloff-Cutter heart valve that has been used throughout the world. All royalties from this valve were given to Sutter Hospital's Research and was supported through the generosity of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, represented by Buddy Baer, Jimmy Durante, Joe DiMaggio and Jack Dempsey.

The impact on heart surgery in Sacramento has been enormous, he studied hospital design throughout the US, Europe and Japan. This was instrumental in making hospital operating rooms more efficient. He was a true pioneer in the field of cardiovascular surgery working with Denton Cooley, Michael DeBakey.& John Kirklin. He spent his career on improving every aspect of cardiovascular surgery including valve replacement in children and the first total correction of Ebstein's anomaly, as performed by Dr. Smeloff, were breakthrough surgeries. This complex anomaly was considered inoperable prior to this case and is now routinely corrected. The first open heart surgery at Sutter Memorial was in 1959. Since that time 35, 000 patients have had open heart surgery at Sutter memorial Hospital. In many ways he has been called the Father of Heart Surgery in Sacramento, CA.

We nominate Dr. Smeloff for his great ingenuity in solving complex heart problems and designing solutions. The impact on the lives of his patients are still being manifested today evident by recent Journal reports of patients with his valve still functioning 23 years post op.

As previously stated he has patients all over the world. He has lectured and presented lectures on behalf of the major cardiac associations throughout Europe and Mexico

Dr. Smeloff , over the years, has brought 15 plus Cardiovascular Surgeons to the area from the most prestigious centers in the United States .

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or questions.

Michael T. Ingram, M.D.

President of Sacramento Cardiovascular Surgeons