

Joseph E. Robertson, Jr., M.D., M.B.A. OHSU President



Dr. Robertson has been OHSU's president since September 2006. He has led OHSU's strategic planning process, which has a vision to "improve the health and well-being of all Oregonians." Since becoming OHSU's president, Joe has made regular trips around the state to share with physicians, legislators, communities and Oregon citizens the health care issues that are impacting all of us. He wants to hear firsthand how OHSU can partner to better meet the health care needs of all Oregonians.

Before becoming OHSU's president, Dr. Robertson served as dean of the OHSU School of Medicine. As dean, Dr. Robertson addressed Oregon's physician workforce shortage, increasing the entering class size in the medical education program and, through partnership with state universities, area health systems, and community partners, expanded medical education in other parts of the state. This project will not only increase the number of physicians in Oregon, it will also help address the problem of mal-distribution of providers. As President, Dr. Robertson has made addressing workforce shortages in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy and bioscience a high priority.

Prior to being named dean, Dr. Robertson was professor and chairman of ophthalmology at OHSU and director of the Casey Eye Institute. Dr. Robertson is an expert in vitreoretinal surgery.

Dr. Robertson received his bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Yale University and earned his M.D. from Indiana University. He completed an ophthalmology residency at OHSU and fellowships in Retina and Vitreous Disease and Surgery at OHSU and Devers Eye Institute, Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital. In 1997 he completed an executive M.B.A. program at the University of Oregon, graduating as co-valedictorian.

Dr. Robertson was born near a small town in the hills of Southern Indiana. Basketball and science were his passions. While at Yale, he developed an interest in neuroscience that led to his choice of a career in ophthalmology and ultimately to a retina subspecialty. He came to OHSU in 1979 as a resident and, other than a year in private practice, he has dedicated his professional life to advancing the department of ophthalmology, the School of Medicine and the University. His son C.J. recently graduated from the University of Oregon. Dr. Robertson and his wife, Patricia, live in a floating home on the Willamette River.

Dr. Robertson believes OHSU can help meet Oregon's health care workforce needs and make Oregon a healthier place to live. This will take all of us working together, developing community partnerships and enhancing vital resources.