

# JOHN W. COLLOTON

## 57 MA, COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH



- **Title:** Director & CEO Emeritus  
University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics
- **Office:** 1337 JCP, UIHC
- **Phone:** 319/356-2265 (Office) or 319/338-6910 (Home)
- **Born:** February 20, 1931
- **Birthplace:** Mason City, IA
- **Spouse:** Married to Mary Ann Hagglund, October 8, 1960
- **Children:** Steven Michael; Laura Jane; and Ann Elizabeth

## A CAREER SYNOPSIS

John W. Colloton, '57 MA dedicated more than four decades of his professional career to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). Under his leadership, UIHC developed into one of the premier academic medical centers in the world.

After graduating magna cum laude from Loras College in Dubuque in 1953 and serving two years in the U.S. military, Colloton earned his master's degree in hospital and health administration from the University of Iowa in 1957. Embarking on his professional career as an administrative resident at UIHC, Colloton rose through the ranks to become the hospital's chief executive in 1971. After 23 years at the helm of UIHC, he resigned the directorship in 1993 to become UI vice president for statewide health services, a position from which he could focus more intensively on health reform issues of import to the university, as well as the entire state.

Through more than four decades of leadership, Colloton's vision and drive were instrumental in leading the transformation of the UIHC into a modern, contemporary teaching hospital serving Iowans and others from all economic walks of life. In that accomplishment, he conceived and led a program to construct and acquire more than \$500 million of new clinical resources and state-of-the-art medical technology at UIHC. These resources have been vital to the recruitment of outstanding faculty physicians and other health professionals, and to the development of a world-class academic medical center for the people of Iowa. UIHC now ranks at or near the top of the nation's teaching hospitals in multiple medical specialties.

Colloton's accomplishments outside Iowa City have also brought honor and visibility to the university. Serving both the state and national healthcare communities, he was elected chairman of the National Council of Teaching Hospitals in 1979 and was appointed as an inaugural member of the Congressional Office of Technology's Prospective Payment Commission in 1983. He was elected to the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1987, and in 1988, became only the second non-physician chairman of the Association of American Medical Colleges in its 112-year history.

He has brought his expertise to other academic medical centers around the nation by accepting invitations to serve on policy and advisory boards at Duke University, Yale, Johns Hopkins, and the Universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania. In 1982, the Iowa State Board of Regents recognized his accomplishments by designating a new, \$100 million addition to the UIHC as the **John W. Colloton Pavilion**.

Throughout his career, Colloton has generously supported many disparate areas of the university. In 1997, he and his late wife, Mary Ann, donated \$1 million for use in advancing the University Libraries, the School of Religion, Hancher Auditorium, medical research, and men's and women's athletics. Subsequently, this generosity was augmented by additional gifts of \$500,000 to the U. of I. from the Collotons.

## **OTHER HONORS**

In 1979, he was the recipient of the John F. Sanford Award from the Iowa State Medical Society for “leadership in development of innovative programs at UIHC and strengthening relations between the UIHC and physicians of Iowa.” In 1990, the American Hospital Association honored him with its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. In 1994, he received the Iowa Hospital Association’s F.P.G. Lattner Award “in recognition of his vision, foresight, and contributions to Iowa by his leadership in health care education, research, patient care and public policy through four decades of service.” In 1996, he received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from his undergraduate alma mater, Loras College. This was followed in 1999 by the College’s conferral of an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree, *Honoris Causa*, on him. In 2002, he received the Horatio Alger Award for “Distinguished Americans” from the Horatio Alger Association in Washington, DC. In 2003, he was inducted into the National Health Care Hall of Fame based in Chicago and at our nation’s first hospital, The Pennsylvania Hospital. In 2007, via a \$2 million endowment created through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin A. Pomerantz, the **John W. Colloton Chair in Cardiology** was established in the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine at the U. of I. In 1999, friends had endowed the **John W. Colloton Chair in Health Management and Policy** in the College of Public Health at the U. of I. He conceived and led a \$500 million capital replacement program, completed without any state appropriation support, to transform the UIHC from an indigent care institution into a state-of-the-art premier private patient-oriented teaching hospital operating in support of the University’s Health Science Colleges. In that accomplishment, the physical mass of the UIHC was quadrupled while its staff complement increased threefold from 2,500 to 7,500 FTEs. Additionally, a host of new specialty clinical services were established. In this capital program, he was instrumental in securing major capital gifts from the late Roy J. Carver, Sr., John Pappajohn and the late Marvin A. Pomerantz, all of whom became warm lifetime friends, as well as prolific donors to the U. of I., at large, in subsequent years. In 2013, the University of Iowa conferred on him an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree as testimony to his “distinguished career and significant contributions to the UIHC and the College of Public Health and steadfast professional and personal support of the University.” In 2016, the College of Public Health alumnus was selected to receive the UI’s Hancher-Finkbine Alumni Medallion, one of the University’s highest honors. The Hancher-Finkbine Medallion honors those who exemplify learning, leadership, and loyalty. In acknowledging Colloton’s numerous professional accomplishments and contributions over a long distinguished career, UI President J. Bruce Harreld stated: “In all three of these areas, you have been and remain committed to the application of knowledge and innovation to critical social problems, and you keenly understand the major impact of health policy and the organization of health services delivery on public health.”

As a result of his vision and an exceptional ability to make this vision a reality, the University of Iowa has clinical care and educational facilities that are second to none in the nation, a remarkable achievement realized without any state capital appropriations. At a banquet honoring Colloton in 1982, the late Dr. Maurice Van Allen, Professor and Head of the Department of Neurology, characterized the past decade as the “Golden Age for this Center,” after which then U. of I. President James O. Freedman and the Iowa State Board of Regents announced the honorific naming of the \$100 million **John W. Colloton Pavilion** at the UIHC. Colloton's devotion and commitment to the University of Iowa have created an enduring legacy for the future of UIHC, even as he continues to contribute to the university's advancement in many other ways.

The late Dr. Robert G. Petersdorf, one of the giants of American academic medicine, in 1996 crystallized John W. Colloton’s career accomplishments with the following words: “Colloton was arguably the most effective hospital chief executive of his era. A brilliant administrator, he said grace over a phased building project (none of it at state expense), which left the UIHC with one of the best physical plants in the country. He was also a superb organizer, fundraiser, and politician, and an articulate spokesman for academic medicine.” Dr. Petersdorf, who served as Professor and Head of Internal Medicine at the University of Washington, as Dean of Medicine at UC San Diego, and President of the Association of American Medical Colleges, made his statement as the leader of our nation’s 400 teaching hospitals and 134 medical schools.

*Colloton is a member of the UI Alumni Association's Old Capitol Club and a member of the UI Foundation's Presidents Club.*