The annual Rankin-Skatrud Professorship and Memorial Lecture honors the contributions of two of the University of Wisconsin (UW)’s most distinguished professors and leaders. This Lectureship was established in 1983 and brings scholars in epidemiology, health policy, pulmonary physiology and preventive medicine to UW.

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**John Rankin, MD** (1923-1981) was a native of Glasgow, Scotland and a graduate in medicine from both the University of Glasgow and UW-Madison. He was a UW-Madison faculty member from 1953 until his untimely death in 1981. He was the original creator of the Glasgow scale for stroke prognosis, still used and known today as the mRS (modified Rankin Scale). At UW he was Professor of Medicine and chaired the Pulmonary Disease Section, the pulmonary training program. Dr. Rankin investigated the causes and public health consequences of environmental lung disease. In 1968, he became Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine, which flourished under his visionary leadership to become an interdisciplinary program of biology, medicine, epidemiology, and health policy. Over 40 years later this vision has now been fully realized in the diversity and excellence of faculty and programs housed within the Department of Population Health Sciences.

**James Skatrud, MD** (1947-2006) was a native of Manitowoc, WI, a graduate of UW and Chair of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine from 1983 until 2005. Jim pioneered research at UW in the pathogenesis and consequences of sleep apnea and was responsible for revealing the critical role of CO$_2$ as a determinant of breathing stability in sleep. Most notably he was an extraordinary and caring mentor to the many pulmonary fellows who sought his guidance as a physician and scientist.

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Both Drs. Rankin and Skatrud were selfless, master teachers and mentors of many UW pre- and post-doctoral fellows.

In conjunction with the annual Professorship, the annual Rankin-Skatrud Research Awards were established in 2000 and provide travel awards to pre- and post-doctoral trainees in Pulmonary Medicine and Population Health Sciences who have been selected to present their research findings at national scientific meetings.

This Professorship and award programs are funded entirely via private donations to the John Rankin Memorial Fund through the UW Foundation.