



2025 NSA Medalist

Dr. Donald O. Quest

Columbia Department of Neurological Surgery



78th Annual Meeting, June 22-25, 2025
Four Seasons Resort, Punta Mita, Mexico

Donald O. Quest, MD, FAANS

Don Quest was born in 1939, in St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in mathematics in 1961 and served on active duty with the United States Navy as a naval aviator aboard the U.S.S. Kittyhawk in the Vietnam conflict between 1961 and 1966.

He attended Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons and was awarded his MD in 1970. He was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha and received the Winchester prize for overall excellence in his graduating medical school class. He interned in surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital and then completed a residency in surgery. Don completed his residency in neurological surgery at the Neurological Institute of New York at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center between 1972 and 1976.

Don served as an assistant professor of neurological surgery at the Downstate Medical Center of the State University of New York and later joined the department of neurological surgery at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and rose to the rank of professor of clinical neurosurgery in 1989. Dr. Quest has been a leader in the department of neurosurgery at Columbia for many years.

Dr. Quest was on the Executive Committee of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), the American Academy of Neurological Surgery, the American College of Surgeons, the American Medical Association, the Neurological Society of America and the Society of Neurological Surgeons. He was president of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery in 2002 and president of the AANS in 2007.



Dr. Donald O. Quest

As a physician, professor, and mentor, Dr. Quest has inspired generations of practicing and aspiring Neurosurgeons through his teaching, guidance, and example. Dr. Quest embodies the highest standards of his field - skill, precision, leadership, compassion, and empathy.

It is an honor for the NSA to recognize Dr. Quest this year.

