



The Office of NIH History Presents



# A Lifetime of Biomedical Computing: A Conversation with Robert Ledley

**Event Type:** Lecture

**When:** Thursday, February 21, 2008, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Where:** Lister Hill Auditorium, Building 38A



## **Description:**

**Dr. Robert S. Ledley**, founder of the National Biomedical Research Foundation (NBRF) and Professor of Radiology, Physiology, and Biophysics at the Georgetown University Medical Center, will hold a conversation with **Dr. Joseph November**, Assistant Professor at the University of South Carolina's Department of History and the current DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Memorial Fellow, titled "**A Lifetime of Biomedical Computing: A Conversation with Robert Ledley**," on Thursday February 21, 2008 in the Lister Hill Auditorium.

Ledley and November will discuss Ledley's remarkable career as a biomedical computing pioneer and the consequences of his decades-long effort to harness computer technology to advance biology and medicine.

An expert in mathematics, physics, electronic engineering, and dentistry, Ledley will share his unique insights into developments (often initiated by Ledley himself) in computing and biomedical research over the last fifty years.

Though he is best known for developing the first whole-body CT scanner in the 1970s, Ledley's vision of computing has shaped many other areas of biomedicine since the 1950s. In addition to developing computers that automated chromosome analysis, medical diagnosis, and medical image processing, Ledley and his collaborators at the NBRF created the Atlas of Protein Sequence and Structure and the Protein Information Resource, thereby helping to lay the groundwork for GenBank.

## **About the Speaker:**

Dr. Ledley has been the head of the NBRF since he founded it in 1960 and a well-known pioneer in the field of biomedical computing. In the late 1940s, he simultaneously trained as a dentist at New York University and as a physicist at Columbia University. After working with some of the earliest digital electronic computers at the National Bureau of Standards in the early 1950s, Ledley dedicated his career to using computers to solve problems in biology.