

Pickering, Thomas George (1940–2009).
Professor of Medicine. *New York Times*, 18 May 2009.

PICKERING--Thomas G., MB, BChir, DPhil, FRCP, professor of medicine at Columbia University, passed away May 14, 2009 at age 69 after a one-year battle with cancer. He was an internationally renowned expert in clinical hypertension and a scientific leader in the fields of hypertension and cardiovascular behavioral medicine. He coined the term "white-coat hypertension" to describe those whose blood pressure was elevated in the doctor's office, but normal in everyday life, and later published the first editorial describing "masked hypertension" (the opposite phenomenon). He was formerly President of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, and a leader in other national and international scientific organizations. He published over 500 articles. His core belief was that much of cardiovascular disease arises from psychosocial factors, and is hence potentially preventable or treatable by modifying these. Always a gentleman, he leaves a legacy of outstanding scholarship, collegiality, and many younger clinical investigators, who are now spread across the world. He was a wonderful mentor and friend and will be greatly missed by his colleagues and co-workers at Columbia University's Center for Behavioral and Cardiovascular Health and Division of General Medicine. Our sympathies go out to his wife Janet, his sons, Robert and William, and his grandchildren.

Karina Davidson, Joseph Schwartz, Steven Shea.