

Hester: MSU alumnus honored as distinguished faculty

Dr. Robert Hester was one of 10 Alumnus Distinguished Fellows honored by the Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University (MSU) recently. Honored alumnus share a common heritage as MSU engineering graduates who have become chief executive officers, presidents, vice presidents, faculty members, and leaders in the profession.

In 1991, the College of Engineering named 100 Distinguished Fellows as part of its 100th anniversary celebration for engineering education at MSU. The program was reborn in 1999 with the addition of 10 Distinguished Fellows. Each year eight to 10 esteemed alumni are given this prestigious recognition.



Hester with Dr. William Batchelor, Department Head, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, College of Engineering.

Dr. Robert Hester is currently a professor of physiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson, MS. In 1975, he received his bachelor's in biological engineering from MSU and in 1982 earned a doctoral degree in biomedical engineering as a joint degree from the UMMC and MSU. From 1982-85 he held a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Virginia in the area of microcirculatory physiology.

Hester is on the biological engineering advisory board at MSU. He is a member of the American Physiology Society (APS), the Microcirculatory Society and the Biomedical Engineering Society. He has served on the education and public affairs committees of APS and as president of the Microcirculatory Society. Hester is a Fellow in the Council of High Blood Pressure. He has served on National Institutes of Health (NIH) study sections and has chaired numerous study sections for the American Heart Association. He serves on the editorial boards for Microcirculation and American Journal of Physiology.

At UMMC, Hester directs a laboratory studying the impact of obesity on cardiovascular disease as well as a National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR project on the development of a mathematical model of human physiology. This project has interactions with NASA and the U.S. Army. Hester is involved in the medical and graduate school education program. He serves on the UMMC medical school admission committee. Other service to the institution involves committee membership in areas of information technology and health care quality improvement.

Hester has received extramural funding from NIH, American Heart Association and is currently funded by a RO1 from NIH and an NSF EPSCoR grant.

Starkville, Miss., is his hometown where his parents Margaret and Leslie Hester reside. His father was on faculty at MSU for 38 years as a professor of Aerospace Engineering. Hester is married to Marion Wofford, M.D., and has two children, Jacob and Jordan.