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Charlie Drake: The Father of Neurological Medicine in Southwestern Ontario

by

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Few people have had as profound an effect on the development of medicine in Ontario as Charles Drake (1917-1994). Charles Drake was the first neurosurgeon in southwestern Ontario. He personally helped in the training of new physicians, improved the quality of treatment patients received in London, Ontario, and laid the foundations for the educational and research capabilities of the University of Western Ontario.

Drake's development of novel neurosurgical techniques for the treatment of basilar aneurysms, the establishment of the *Clinical Neurological Department*, *The Robarts Research Institute* and *The Siebens-Drake Research Institute* have helped to make London, Ontario an epicenter of neurological medicine.

Drake's development of the basilar aneurysm clip drastically improved the outcome for patients with aneurysms of the basilar artery, which were often considered to be inoperable. The presence of Charles Drake brought patients and physicians to London, Ontario, for treatment and education respectively, in neurological medicine.

Drake helped to put London, Ontario, on the map and has had more of an effect on the health care system in southern Ontario than any other physician.