



The University of Virginia Patent Foundation congratulates

## 2008 Edlich-Henderson Inventor of the Year

**George T. Rodeheaver**

*Richard F. Edlich Professor of Biomedical Research  
Director of the Wound Healing Research Laboratory  
U.Va. Department of Plastic Surgery*





# University of Virginia Patent Foundation Names George T. Rodeheaver the 2008 Edlich-Henderson Inventor of the Year

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The Edlich-Henderson Inventor of the Year award recognizes inventors whose technology has proven to be of notable value to society. Named for U.Va. Professor Emeritus Richard F. Edlich, M.D., and Christopher J. Henderson, the award is a tribute to their enduring support of and commitment to the University and its inventors.

Rodeheaver was chosen for the revolutionary wound-healing technology he has developed over more than three decades of research in the U.Va. Health System. His ahead-of-its-time antimicrobial gel, trade-named PluroGel™, has proven significantly more effective than existing therapies in treating severe burns and chronic wounds. The topical treatment is unique in that it thickens at high temperatures (such as body temperature) and liquefies at cooler temperatures. These properties allow it to effectively deliver healing medication when applied to the body but be easily removed by cool water, making it much less painful to remove than existing therapies.

Rodeheaver's innovative technology, for which he received a full U.S. patent in 1997, has been used to treat patients throughout the U.Va.

*Cover photo by Jane Haley*

Health System. More than 2,000 patients — some referred from up to 400 miles away to receive the treatment — have benefited from the invention.

Rodeheaver has worked diligently to commercialize the technology through a start-up company, PluroGen Therapeutics Inc., which he founded with Associate Professor Adam J. Katz, M.D., also of the Department of Plastic Surgery. PluroGen is currently seeking Federal Drug Administration approval on the product so that it can be made available commercially to the public.